ルサンチマン

4

花沢健吾

■スピリッツコミックス好評発売中／■

美味しんぼ（雁屋哲・花咲アキラ）…1～96集
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団地ともお（小田扉）……1～8集
ホムンクルス（山本英夫）……1～6集
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闇金ウシジマくん（真鍋昌平）……1～5集
出るトコ出ましょ！（稲光伸二）……1～9集
アグネス仮面（ヒラマツ・ミノル）……全8巻
我が名は海師（小森陽一・武村勇治）…1～8集
DAWNドーン（倉科遼・ナカタニD.）……全8巻
バンビ～ノ！（せきやてつじ）……1～5集
テレキネシス（落間甘い名）……1～2集
現在官僚系もふ（鍋田吉郎・並木洋美）1～6集
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ボーイズ・オン・ザ・ラン（花沢健吾）…1～4集
ＣＡとお呼びっ！（花津ハナヨ）……1～2集
QUOJUZ-コジューツ-（柏木ハルコ）…1～2巻
電波の城（細野不二彦）……1～2集
チェリー（窪之内英策）……1集
日本沈没（一色登希彦・小松左京）…1～3集
fine.ファイン（信濃川日出雄）……1～2集
SKIN（林宏司・中井邦彦）……1集

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オメガトライブ（玉井雪雄）……1～14集
昴スバル（曽田正人）……1～11集
ティーンズブルース（コージィ城倉）……1～7集
My Favorite BIKE（山口かつみ）……1～3集
ＣＢ感。REBORN（東本昌平）……1～7集

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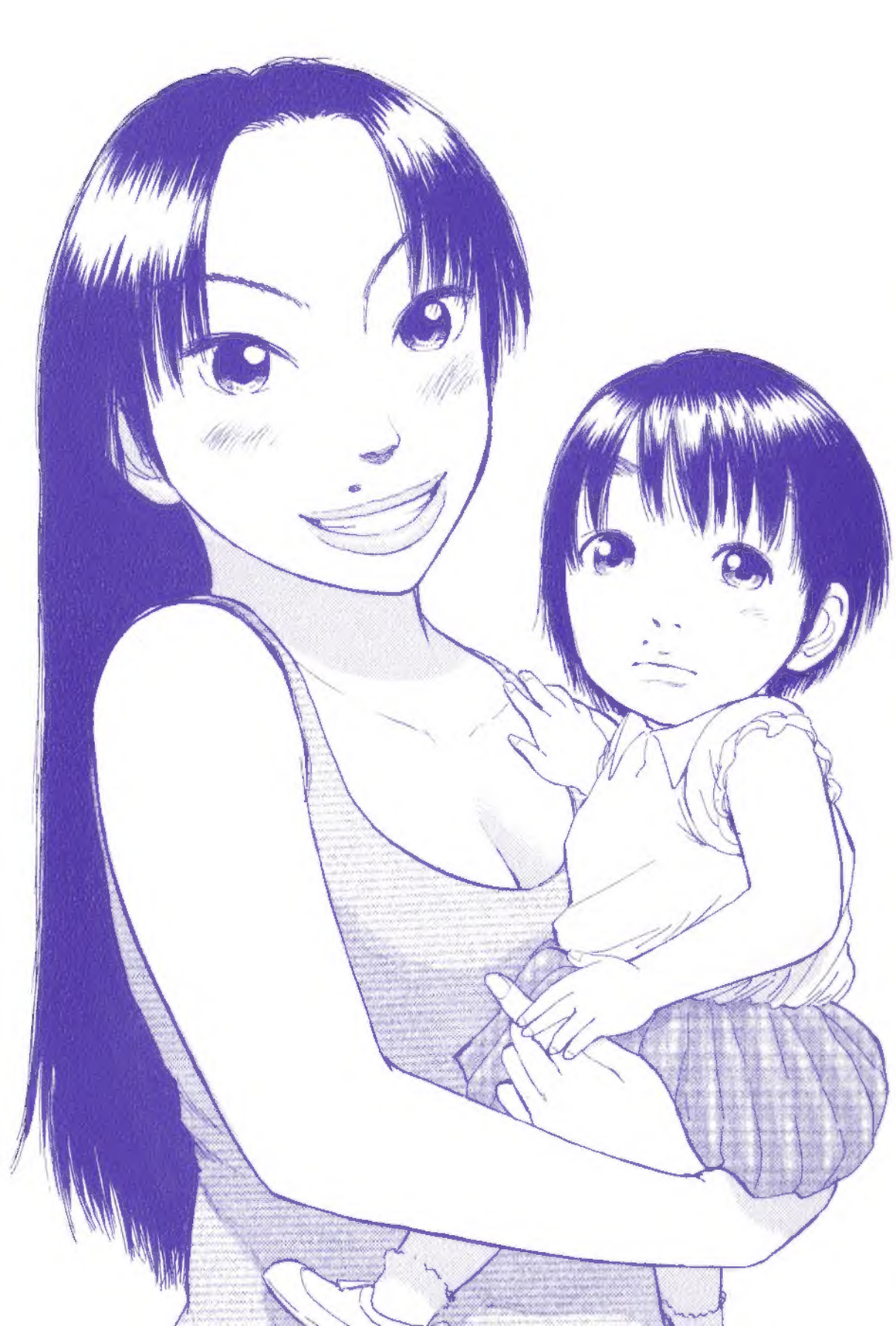

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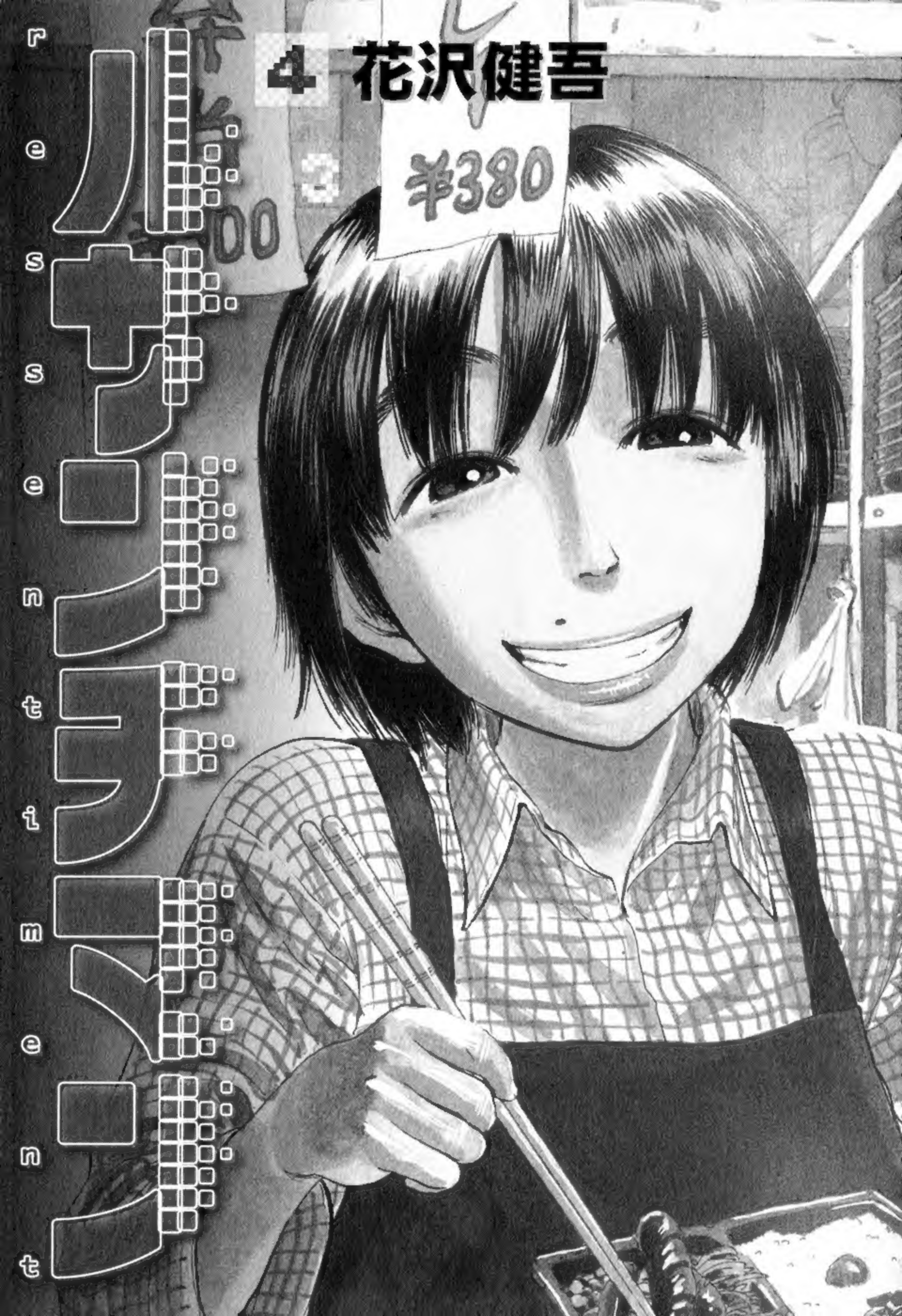
花沢健吾

小学館

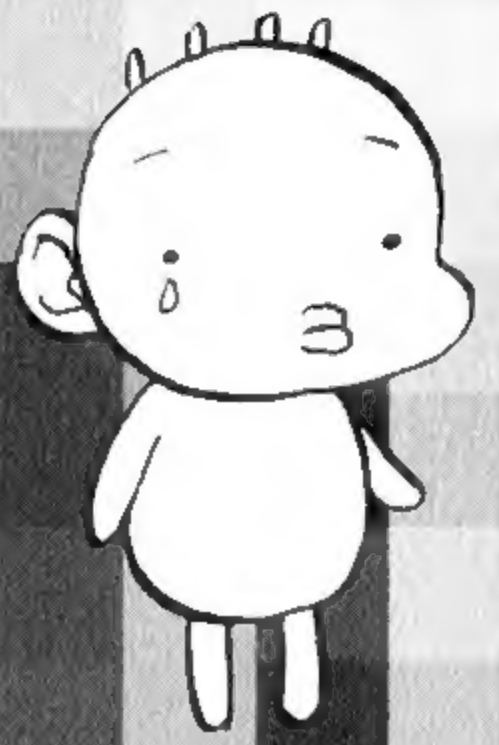
4 花沢健吾



TRANSLATION
LAIKA
CLEANING & RETOUCH
DILLE
LETTERING
NOMAD SOUL

CONTENTS

CHAPTER 36: MARIA 3
CHAPTER 37: COLLISION 19
CHAPTER 38: WAKAME SAKE 35
CHAPTER 39: EHARA 51
CHAPTER 40: THE TWO THAT CAN'T GO HOME 67
CHAPTER 41: A CHOICE 85
CHAPTER 42: WAKING UP 103
CHAPTER 43: HURRAH 119
CHAPTER 44: DECLARATION OF WAR 135
CHAPTER 45: PROMISE 151
CHAPTER 46: DOCTOR 167
CHAPTER 47: THE ELEVENTH HOUR 183
CHAPTER 48: DETERMINATION 201
THE LAST CHAPTER: GOODBYE 219

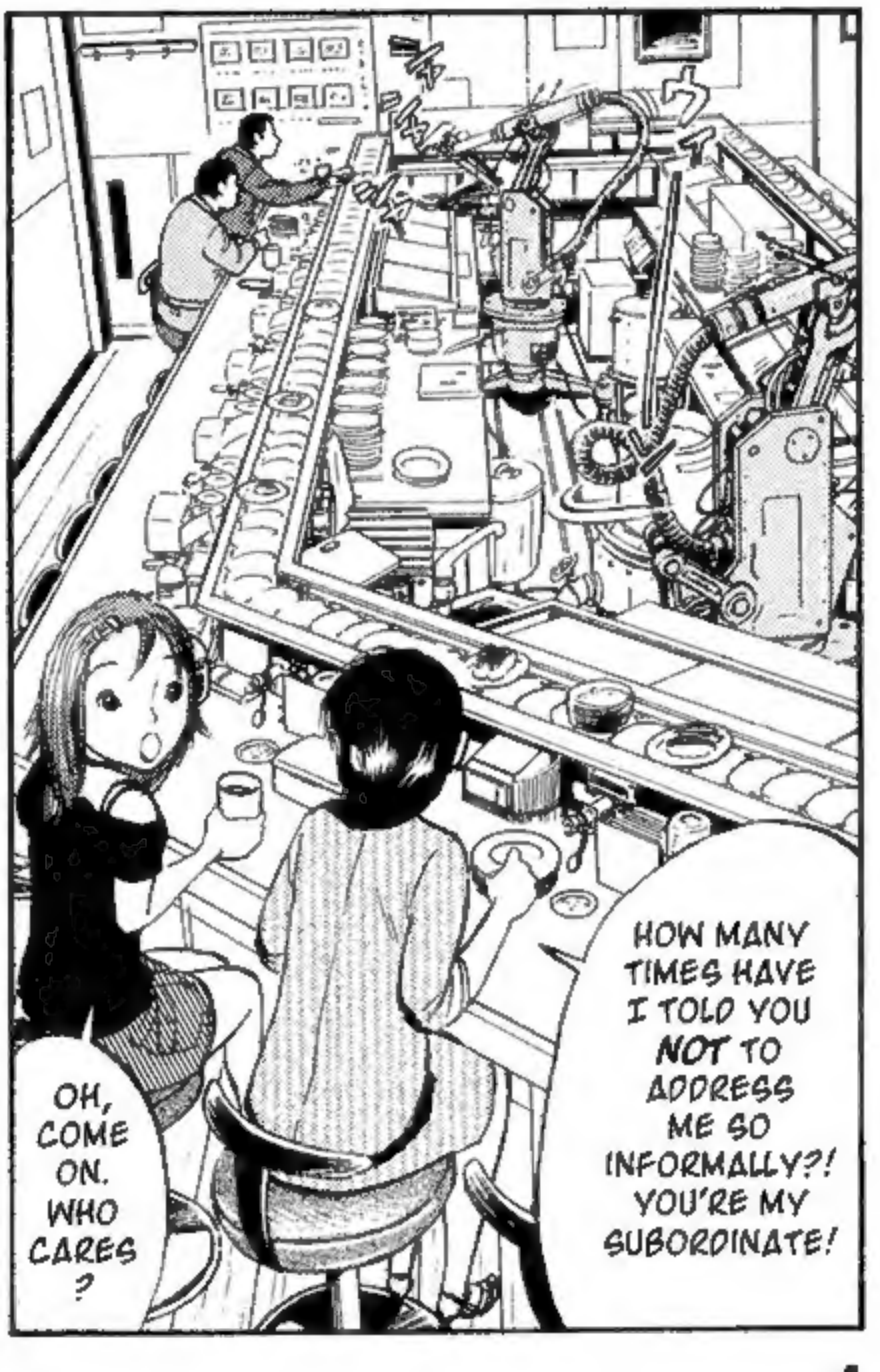


CHAPTER 36:
MARIA

MARIAAAA! LISTEN!
キュッ

I DO! YOU DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH I'VE HAD TO SUFFER BECAUSE OF MY NAME...
LAST TIME DURING SALES...

2
HEY, I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF TELLING YOU SOMETHING! JUST LISTEN TO THIS, OKAY?
...


HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU NOT TO ADDRESS ME SO INFORMALLY?! YOU'RE MY SUBORDINATE!
OH, COME ON. WHO CARES?

OH, YEAH. HE WAS THE BEST LOOKING GUY THERE. SO WHY'D YOU TWO BREAK UP?

AND HE WAS THE ONE I HAD MY SIGHTS ON, BUT SHE SNATCHED HIM AWAY FROM ME.

YOU KNOW WHAT HE TOLD ME?

ENDO DUMPED ME!

NO, OMORI ONLY TOOK ME OUT FOR DINNER. ENDO'S THE ONE FROM THE MIXER, REMEMBER?!

ENDO? WEREN'T YOU GOING OUT WITH OMORI?

AN *UNREAL* GIRL STOLE HIM FROM ME!

"I'M SICK OF REAL WOMEN."

HE'S REALLY LET HIMSELF GO AND HAS GOTTEN SO FAT I DON'T CARE ANY-MORE,

BUT LOSING A MAN TO SOME GAME *SUCKS!*

HE SAID THAT THE GIRLS IN THE GAME HAVE BETTER PER-SONALITIES AND ARE WAY CUTER THAN I AM, BUT I'M *REAL!* ISN'T IT RIDICULOUS?!

I THINK HE BOUGHT THE GAME RIGHT AFTER WE BEGAN DATING. HE GOT REALLY INTO IT AND STARTED TO SPEND LESS TIME WITH ME.

WHAT ARE THOSE?

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THE UNREAL IS? IT'S A GAME. A *G-A-M-E.*

THAT'S MY MOLE!

HEY, MARIA, YOU'VE GOT SOME SEAWEED ON YOUR FACE.

I DUNNO WHAT THE HELL IT IS, BUT THE UNREAL SOUNDS AWESOME!

"ISN'T IT RIDICULOUS?" WHAT A JOKE! *YOU'RE* THE ONE WHO KEEPS PLAYING THOSE SUCKERS FOR ALL THEY'VE GOT.

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME...

...I'VE GOTTEN SOME?

4

WASSUUUUP, NAGAOOO, WE COMING THROUGH?

HEY THERE, MISS NAGAO!

WELL, WELL.

Incoming Message

RING-A-DING

NAH, IT'S NOT REALLY A BIG DEAL BUT...

TAKURO...

YOU TWO HITTING ON ME?

WHAT'S UP, GUYS?

THAT'S RIIIIGHT.

W-

WHY?

WEEEEELL ...

WE SPOKE TO HIS MOM ON THE PHONE BUT WE DON'T REALLY GET THE GIST OF IT.

HE HASN'T COME TO WORK IN THREE DAYS.

GIVE ME THE ADDRESS, I'LL PAY HIM A VISIT.

A-ALL RIGHT.

UNDER-STOOD!

MISS NAGAO,

SORRY, BUT COULD YOU DROP BY AND CHECK ON HIM?

PLEASE BE CAREFUL!

DID THE LIPO GET BOTCHED?!

SAKAMOTO!

靴修理

坂本弁当

6

ぎゅっ

IS EVERYONE OUT? WHAT SHOULD I DO?

ANYONE HOME? SAKA-MOTOOOOO!

どん thud
どん thud
どん thud

Shirt: Out

GIVE ME BACK MY BODYSUIT !!

HOLD...

...YOU'RE IN THERE!

I KNOW ...

GET YOUR ASS OUT HERE, TAKURO!

WHOA!

Shirt In The two characters combined can mean "come out" or "going out"

KNOCK IT OFF, OR I'LL CALL THE COPS!

?!

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!

HOLD ON, UM ..

HOW DARE YOU TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANOTHER PERSON'S GOOD INTEN-TIONS?! WHO THE HELL SAID THAT YOU COULD KEEP IT FOR THREE DAYS?! WHAT AM I GONNA DO IF THE SUIT GETS ALL STRETCHED OUT?! HEYYY!

I'M HIS CO-WORKER. SAKAMOTO'S RESTING FROM HIS SURGERY SO I CAME TO CHECK ON HIM.

WH- WHO ARE *YOU?!*

SURGERY ...? FOR WHAT?

ARE YOU... THE ONE WHO LENT TAKURO THE 100,000 YEN?

HUH? YEAH, SO?

...

NOW I GET IT.

YOU'RE HIS FRIEND, RIGHT? YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT IT?

UMM, WELL, SAKAMOTO UNDERWENT LIPOSUCTION SO HE COULD LOSE SOME WEIGHT.

...SPENT IT ON A *VVH* (VIRTUAL VAGINA HOLE.) IN OTHER WORDS, AN "ADULT TOY"...

HE TOOK YOUR MONEY AND...

"HE" "HE" "HE" "HE"

I SEE, I SEE. WHAT A SHAME, BUT HE DIDN'T UNDERGO ANY SURGERY

...SO HE COULD HAVE SEX...

...WITH A GIRL IN THE UNREAL.

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! HE'S RIGHT UP THERE!

DAMN, YOU'RE LOUD, SAKAMOTO!

HE CAN'T HEAR YOU. EVEN IF HIS BODY IS UP THERE, HIS MIND'S COMPLETELY IN THE UNREAL.

ER, I DON'T REALLY GET WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT BUT.

...

9

S-SAKAMOTO, ARE YOU THERE?!

WELL, HE IS, BUT AT THE SAME TIME HE ISN'T.

FINE THEN!

TAKE ME TO THIS... "UNREAL," RIGHT NOW!

HERG?!

HE HE HE HE HE HE HE

IF HE'S LIKE THIS NOW THEN HE'S ALREADY A FULL BLOWN UNREAL ADDICT, SOON HE WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO RETURN TO REALITY. YOU COULDN'T HAVE LENT YOUR MONEY TO A WORSE GUY, LADY!

I'M SO GONNA KILL HIM!

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT SONUVA-BITCH TRICKED ME!

ギリ ギリ

GET IN!

EEEK!

ギャギャギャ

U-UM, I GET CARSICK EAS--

SHUT UP!

T-THIS IS THE UNREAL?

NO

EWW...

WHAT A DUMP!

IT'S COMPLETELY DARK. THIS IS THE UNREAL?

W-WAIT A MINUTE!

NO...

THAT'S RIGHT. IT'S AN EARLY MODEL SO THE IMAGES MIGHT NOT LOOK TOO GREAT

AM I...

SUPPOSED TO WEAR THIS?

THERE'S NO TIME TO CREATE A CHARACTER FOR YOU SO WE'LL JUST GRAB YOUR IMAGE FROM THE CAMERA.

I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, BUT WHATEVER... JUST HURRY UP AND TAKE ME TO THE UNREAL!

WH-

WH-

WHAT THE...?!

WHOA!

R-RAIHARUO?

HUH?

WHATEVER, I'LL JUST CALL YOU "HARUO."

NO, REINHART!

THAT'S RIGHT

SO THIS IS THE UNREAL?

WOW

THERE'S AN INVISIBLE WALL HERE!

HEY, WHAT'S THIS?

SO DON'T STEP OVER THERE, DIDN'T I JUST TELL YOU THAT?

HEHE!

WHUH

W-WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!

THE NAME'S REINHART. NICE TO MEET YOU.

TH-

THIS IS SAKA-MOTO'S HOUSE?

YES

IF HE'S NOT HERE, THEN THERE'S ONLY ONE OTHER PLACE HE COULD BE.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO, HARUO?

IT'S REIN-HART. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

IT'S NO GOOD-- HE'S NOT HERE EITHER.

SCHOOL.

YOU KNOW, HARUO,

YOU'VE GOT MORE CHARM AS A MIDGET, YOUR FACE RIGHT NOW IS JUST TOO UNREAL.

B-

BE QUIET, WOMAN! THIS IS MY TRUE FORM!

I'M OF THE SAME OPINION. EVERYONE WHO COMES HERE BEARS WOUNDS IN THEIR HEARTS. THE UNREAL WAS CREATED SO THEY COULD HEAL THOSE WOUNDS.

HMPH!

WHY WOULD HE BE GOING TO SCHOOL NOW? I WOULDN'T WANT TO.

BUT...

FOR PEOPLE LIKE US, WE DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A PLACE IN THE REAL WORLD TO RUN AWAY TO.

...

THERE ARE THINGS THAT YOU'D WANT TO RUN AWAY FROM TOO, AREN'T THERE?

ISN'T THAT JUST RUNNING AWAY?

Sign: School Infirmary

保健室

HE'S HERE.

HUH? HERE?

I'M SURE OF IT

I WAS WRONG... LET'S GO TO THE NEXT SPOT.

SHIT! I FORGOT TO LOCK THE DOOR!

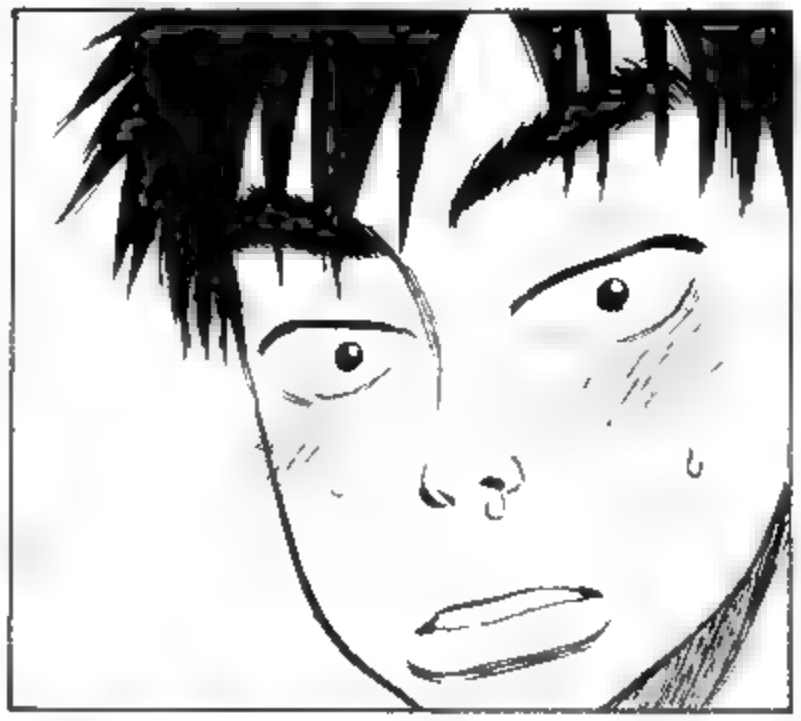
AHHH!

女子便所

Sign: Girl's Bathroom

COME ON!
SHOW YOUR-SELF, SAKA-MOTO!
HEY, IF YOU RUN THAT FAST YOU'RE GONNA HIT ANOTHER WALL!
SO, ALL THAT'S LEFT IS THE ROOF?!
SHUT UP!
HUH?
MNN...

CHAPTER 37: COLLISION



2

...

M-MS. NAGAO ?!

ﾊｯ

ﾊｯ

もぞ もぞ

WH-WH-WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE WITH REINHART ?!

SHOULDN'T IT BE OBVIOUS?

CORRECT

He's got such a stupid haircut!

T-THAT'S SAKAMOTO ?!

BEFORE YOU START TALKING, PUT THAT DISGUSTING THING...

...AWAY!

S-

SORRY!

TAKURO'S THING...

...ISN'T DISGUSTING!

ぱっ

!

WH-

I'M TSUKIKO.

I...

WHO ARE YOU?

WHO ARE YOU?!

YOU, SAKA-MOTO!

I DON'T NEED TO TELL YOU ANYTHING!

ER... WAIT!

Y-YES?

U-UM...

WELL..

I'M NAGAO.

I DIDN'T LEND IT TO YOU...

...SO YOU COULD DO STUPID CRAP LIKE THIS!

I LENT YOU MONEY SO YOU COULD GET LIPO-SUCTION!

GIVE ME BACK MY 100,000 YEN RIGHT NOW!

WHAT'S THE MATTER?! CAT GOT YOUR TONGUE?!

YOU BE QUIET!

AND GIVE ME BACK MY BODYSUI--

YES, MA'AM.

GET DOWN ON YOUR KNEES AND APOLO-GIZE!

I ABSO-LUTELY DETEST LIARS!

WHY ARE YOU ..

...DOING THIS?!

はぁ

Y-

YES, MA'AM

IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!

IT DOES!

I SAID IT DOESN'T!

IT DOES!

I WON'T LET YOU...

...INSULT SOMEONE PRECIOUS TO ME!

HMMM...

IT'S BECAUSE OF "ADULT TOYS" LIKE YOU...

...THAT THESE CHUMPS WILL NEVER GROW UP!

HMPH, AND YOU EVEN PUT ON AN ACT THAT MAKES IMMATURE BOYS FLOCK TO YOU.

WELL...

YOU CERTAINLY ARE WELL BUILT. YOUR SHORT HAIR, LOLI-FACE, AND YOUR BODY...

BIKE

W-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

WHO THE HELL WOULD LIKE THIS FOUR-EYED FATASS?!

WHAT'S THIS?

ARE YOU GETTING JEALOUS? DO YOU HAVE A CRUSH ON TAKURO OR SOMETHING?

I WOULDN'T CARE ABOUT SOMEONE LIKE THAT!

DON'T MAKE ME SICK!

HE'S NOT A FOUR-EYED FATASS!

IT MUST HURT

hūh

BECAUSE I TOOK HIM FROM YOU, HUH?

JEEEEZ, WHAT A DOWN-POUR!

YOU'RE HUNGRY, RIGHT? I'LL MAKE SOME DINNER RIGHT AWAY.

H-HUH?

SORRY, MARIA.

ガシッ

OW ?!

ギッ

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

IT HURTS !

ドドド

OWWWW
...

はあ pant

Y-

はあ pant

YOU...

...

A-ARE YOU OKAY ?!

DON'T GET NEAR ME!

YOU DON'T EVEN ...

... REALLY EXIST!

.2

WHEN THIS FOUR-EYED FATASS GETS SICK OF YOU...

... YOU'LL DIS-APPEAR!

SLAP

...

I'M SORRY
I LIED TO YOU.
I PROMISE I'LL
PAY YOU BACK
THE MONEY
I BORROWED.

BUT...

PLEASE NEVER SAY THOSE WORDS TO TSUKIKO.

THAT HURT...

NO IT DION'T

I-I'M SORRY I HIT YOU!

W-WHAT THE HELL IS THIS...?

WHY AM I THE BAD GUY...?

I HATE YOU SO MUCH...

HEY!

IF YOU RUN YOU'RE GONNA BUMP INTO SOME-THING AGAIN

SHUT UP!

ANYWAY... HURRY UP AND GIVE ME BACK MY BODYSUIT. IF YOU DON'T I'M GONNA CALL YOUR HOUSE 100 TIMES EVERY DAY.

UH, SURE.

DON'T WORRY. TSUKIKO DIDN'T HEAR THEM

THE WORDS THAT MS. NAGAO SAID ..

THEY'RE PROGRAMMED SO THEY CAN'T HEAR WORDS LIKE THAT

ERM...

REINHART !

Note: Wakame sake, or seaweed sake, refers to the sexual act of drinking sake out of a girl's crotch. The name comes from the idea that the girl's pubic hair in the sake resembles soft seaweed (wakame) floating in the sea.

CHAPTER 30: WAKAME SAKE

TASTES GREAT!

TAKURO, ARE YOU HAVING FUN?

DUMMY.

he he he

SLURP SLURP SLURP

WELLLLLL, I JUST WANTED TO TRY IT ONCE.

2

I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE SUCH A PERVERT, TAKURO.

LOOK WHO'S TALKING!

I-I'M **NOT** A PERVERT

IT'S... STARTING TO FEEL GOOD

わかめ酒

DOES IT STILL HURT?

UH-UH.

MMN..

Bottle. Wakame sake

HUH?

WHAT?

WHAT?

W-WHAT'S INSIDE OF YOU RIGHT NOW?

HEY, THAT TICKLES!

ドキドキ

WELL, YOU KNOW.

COME ON, WHAT'S *INSIDE* OF YOU...?

I-

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT

AH!

HNN!

キュッ

ぎゅっ

OH, YOU'RE IMPOS-SIBLE!

I DIDN'T HEAR YOUUUUUU!

WHAAAT WAS THAT?

TAKURO'S ..

4

...D**K!

TAKURO'S ...

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT'S ALL YOU KEEP TALKING ABOUT!

A-AND ..

WHERE IS IT?

LET'S SEE...

I WONDER WHOSE IS IT,

AND WHERE IT'S INSIDE?!

COME ON, NOBODY'S LISTENING.

I DON'T WANNA SAY IT, OKAY?!

P*S*Y

T-TSUKIKO'S ...

YOU CAN JUST WHISPER IT TO ME.

COME ON!

...

ふぉぉぉぉ

hhaaaaaa

DID IT JUST GET BIGGER?

H-HUH?

I-

I LOVE YOU

6

IS THAT *REALLY* ALL YOU DID? YOU'RE NOT HIDING ANYTHING FROM ME, ARE YOU?!

WHAT?!

TAKURO, ALL YOU DID WAS BORROW MONEY FROM THAT OLD LADY, RIGHT?

YEAH.

ズッ

THANKS, BUT NO THANKS!

T-THERE'S NO WAY I WOULD! WITH AN OLD HAG LIKE HER?! SHE'S, LIKE, OVER THIRTY!

OH,

I GET IT! ARE YOU JEALOUS?

?

M-MARK ME WITH YOUR KISS!

カ!!!

はっ

I'D NEVER DO THAT! I BELONG TO YOU ALONE, TSUKIKO!

PLEASE DON'T LEAVE ME.

. MARK YOU ALL OVER!

I'M GOING TO

AH, THERE WE GO!

OHH

OH!

IT GOT HARD AGAIN.

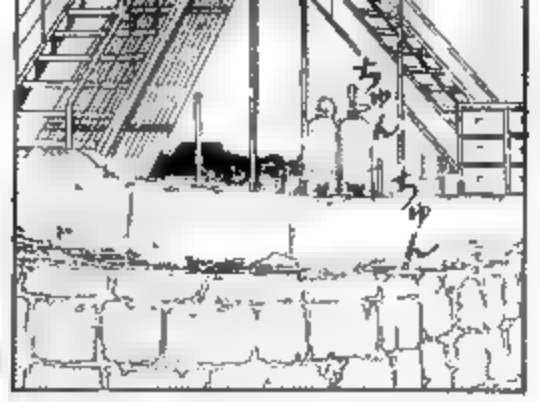
. TO GIVE YOU A KISS OVER HERE, TOO?

DO YOU WANT ME

YEAHHHHH!

YEAH...

TODAY YOU'LL BE GOING TO WORK, AND I'LL BE GOING TO SCHOOL LIKE USUAL, RIGHT?


ちゅん
ちゅん

OKAY THEN...

SEE YOU LATER.

I'M GONNA TALK DIRTY TO YOU AGAIN!
DUMMY!

WHEN YOU GET BACK, LET'S DO IT AGAIN.

HOLY CRAP, THAT'S A LOT

NOW THEN

TAKURO! YOU'RE GOING TO WORK TODAY, RIGHT?!

BAH!

HE'S BEEN COMING STRAIGHT HOME AND THAT'S BEEN A REAL HELP.

EVEN THOUGH YOU *KNEW* WE WERE SUPPOSED TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL YESTERDAY, YOU DIDN'T HELP OUT AT ALL. IT WAS SO MUCH WORK ALONE

HURRY UP AND EAT YOUR FOOD.

ALL HE DOES IS SLEEP THESE DAYS

I'M GOING TODAY... *JESUS!*

WHO THE HELL CARES ABOUT THAT?! DAMN...

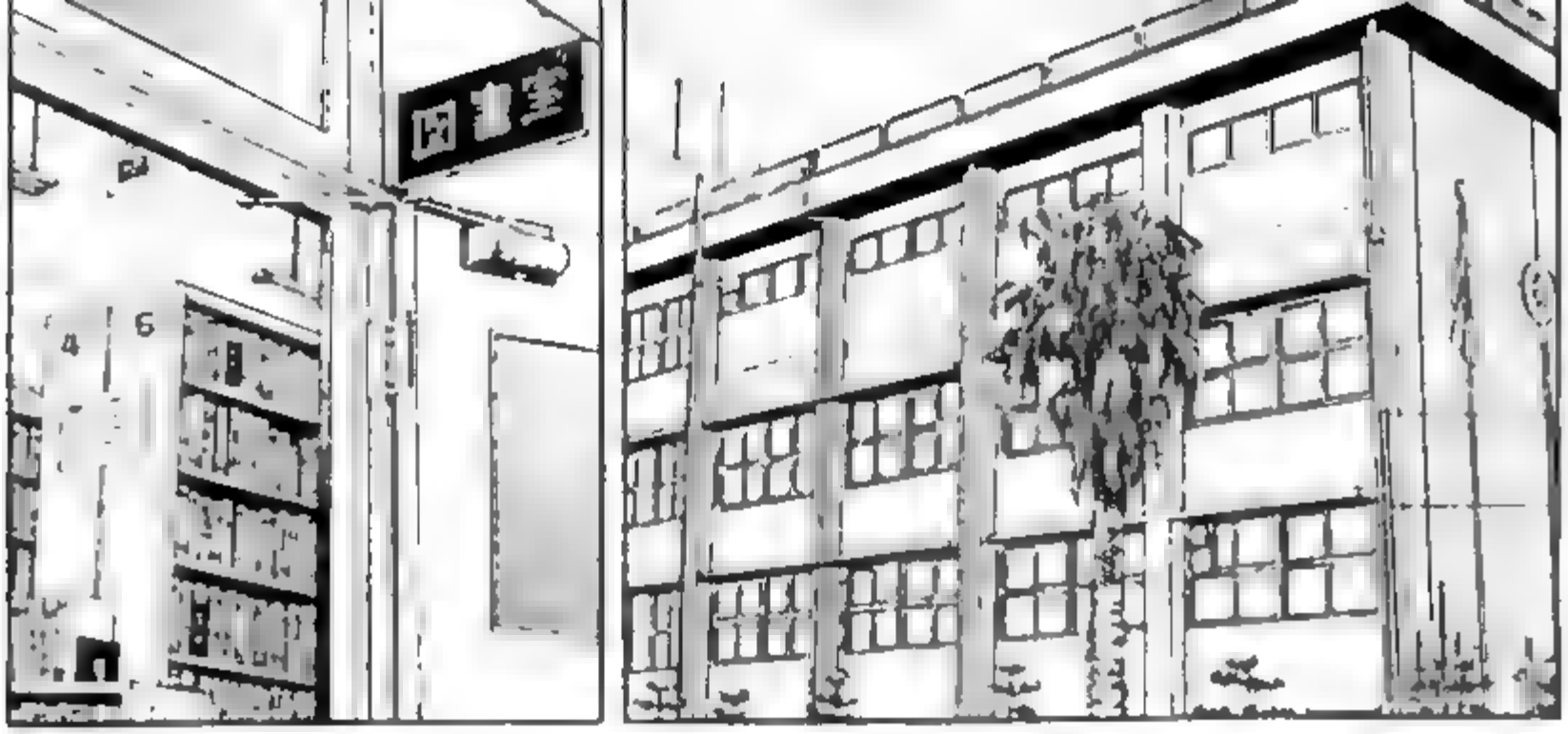
TAKE CARE OF YOUR PERSONAL HYGIENE A LITTLE MORE!

WHAT'S GOING ON IN THAT HEAD OF HIS
I WONDER

I'M FINE...

HUH?

I-I'M FINE.
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? ARE YOU FEELING OKAY? YOU'VE BEEN CAUSING A RUCKUS SINCE THIS MORNING



Sign: Library

...FOR AN "NPC" (NON-PLAYER CHARACTER) TO BE READING IN THE LIBRARY.

4

EXCEPT FOR THE TWO PROGRAMS "NOAH" AND "MOON"...

LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE NOT ON THIS ISLAND

IF SHE'S A NORMAL PROGRAM, "NPC" AND "VIRTUAL REALITY" ARE ALL BLACKLISTED WORDS THAT THE NPC HOST CAN'T HEAR.

I GUESS SHE COULDN'T HEAR IT...

WHAT DID YOU MEAN..
...BY "NPC" ?

THEN...

HUH? YEAH
YOU SAID IT REALLY LOUDLY, SO...

YOU WERE ABLE TO HEAR WHAT I JUST SAID?

...HOW ABOUT "VIRTUAL REALITY" ?

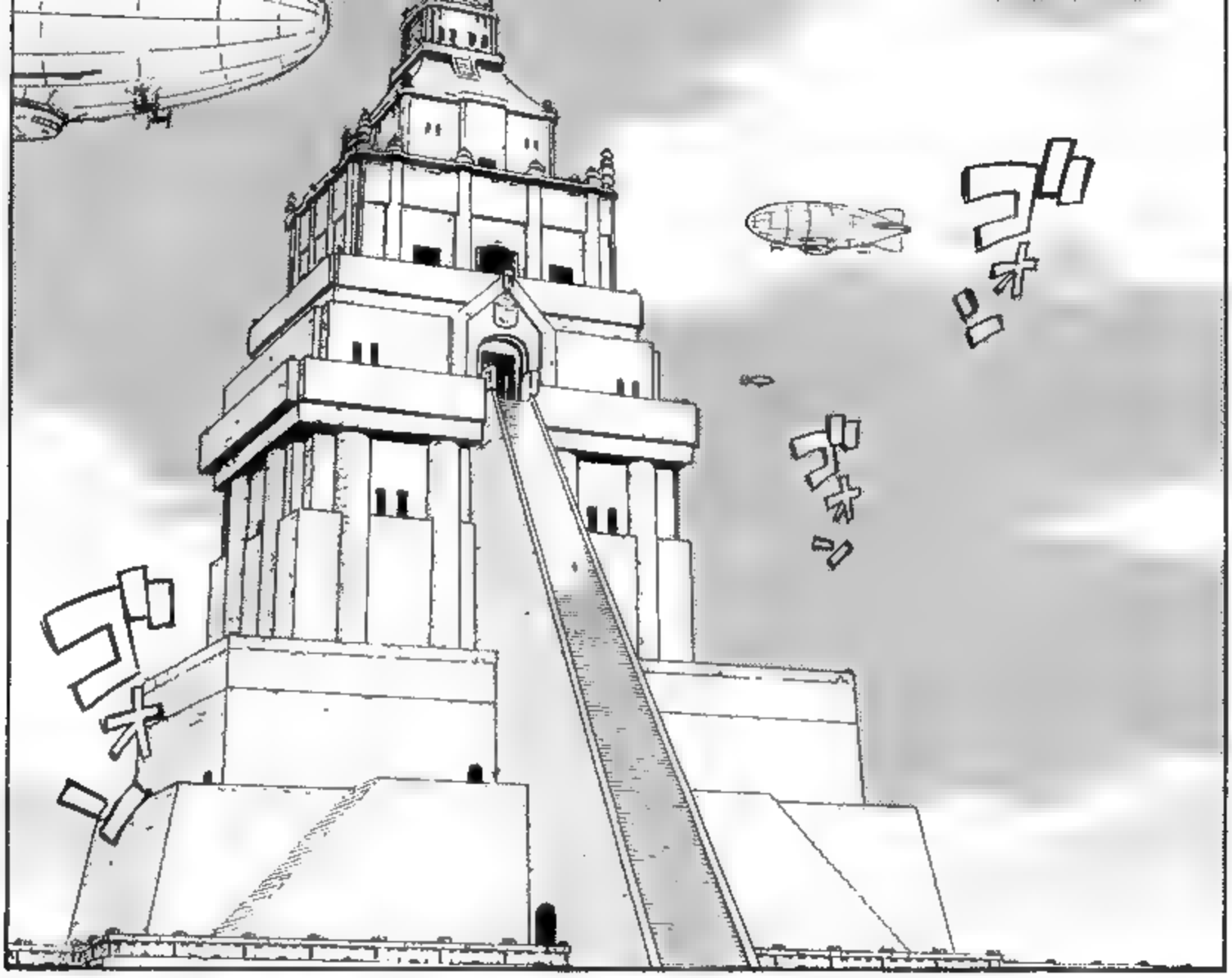
VIRTUAL...

...REALITY?

I BETTER ...

...REPORT THIS.

CHAPTER 39: EHARA



2

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WHAT COULD THOSE LOLICON PERVERTS POSSIBLY DO ?!

HMPH!

THEY'RE A REAL PAIN IN THE ASS WE SHOULD JUST ***BOMB*** ASTONIA TO HELL.

THE RPG AND DATING-SIM GUILDS ARE TRYING TO FORM AN ALLIANCE TO OPPOSE US.

YUP

I HEARD THERE'S A HIGHER LEVEL NPC WHO CAN UNDERSTAND THE BLACK-LISTED WORDS

IS IT TRUE?

OH, HE'S FINALLY HERE.

HELLO

GUNKAN ISLAND, HUH...? THAT'S NOT TOO FAR FROM SHIYAMOJI PARK.

RIGHT NOW, SHE'S ON GUNKAN ISLAND.

TSUKIKO

AND WHAT IS THE NPC'S NAME?

"MOON."

WAIT A SECOND! WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS "MOON"?

H-HOLD ON!

SCRAP ALL THE STRATEGIES WE JUST CAME UP WITH!

YES, SIR!

PUT TOGETHER AN ASSAULT SQUAD IMMEDIATELY!

WHOA! AMAZING!

YES, SIR!

...WILL BE ABLE TO CONTROL *ALL* OF THE COMPUTERS IN THE WORLD.

TO PUT IT IN SIMPLY, WHOEVER HAS THE SOFTWARE KNOWN AS "MOON"

NOPE! I JUST JOINED UP AND I'M ONLY IN THE SIXTH GRADE. SO WHAT IS IT?!

WHAAAAAT? YOU'RE *HERE* AND YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT "MOON"?

...IT'LL BE POSSIBLE TO MANIPULATE EVERYTHING!

...ALL THE WAY DOWN TO THE MILITARY COMPUTERS AT THE PENTAGON IN AMERICA...

...FROM THE DEPOSIT BALANCES IN THE ATMS AT THE BANKS...

IN OTHER WORDS

AND YOU KNOW WHAT IT MEANS IF WE GET CONTROL OF THE NUKES?

THAT'S RIGHT

A-

AWE-SOME!

CORRECT

W-

WORLD DOMINA-TION?

FUHRER EHARA..

WE...

...WILL BE ABLE TO RULE THE *REAL* WORLD.

わっはっは

WE'VE BEEN DEFINED AS A VIRTUAL ENEMY STATE

AFTER ALL, OUR ARMY INVADED AND DEFEATED THE *US ARMED FORCES* IN ONE OF *THEIR* MILITARY SIMULATIONS

WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT THE ALLIED FORCES? SHOULDN'T WE CRUSH THEM BEFORE THEY BECOME A THREAT?

LET'S DO THIS WITH A FEW GOOD MEN A LOT OF TROOPS GOT THEIR ACCOUNTS BANNED FROM THE AIR BOMBING LAST TIME

IS THAT SATIS-FACTORY?

WE'LL CARRY OUT THE MISSION TONIGHT

WHAT? THOSE DATING-SIM GUILDS DON'T EVEN HAVE A *LEADER* WE'VE GOT *NOTHING* TO WORRY ABOUT.

オオオオオオ

オオオオオオ

FUHRER!

FUHRER EHARA!

FUHRER!!

I'M NOT GOING TO BOTHER WITH THE DETAILS.

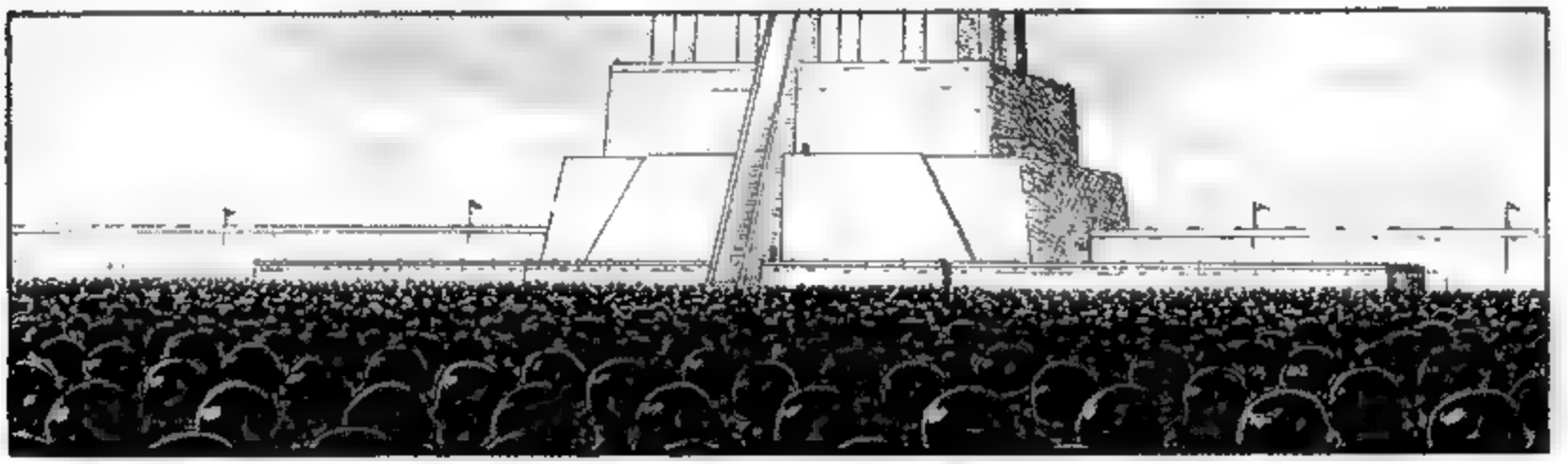
GO WITH WHATEVER IS MOST EFFICIENT.

YES, SIR!

FUHRER EHARA!

THERE SURE ARE A LOT OF YOU GATHERED HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY.

DON'T YOU GUYS HAVE ANYTHING BETTER TO DO?



WE, THE MISER-ABLE...

...THE UGLY...

ALL OF YOU...

REMOVE YOUR MASKS!

hoha

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はっ

CHRISTMAS EVE..

...AND VALENTINE'S DAY...

WE, WHO, ON BIRTH-DAYS...

AND HIDING IN OUR ROOMS

...JOB-LESS,

...THE BALD, THE FAT, AND THE SHORT...

WE, CONSUMED BY SELF-HATRED, WE, WHO DETEST REALITY...

...WE WILL NOW BESTOW ***DESPAIR*** UPON THE REAL WORLD!

...HAVE NEVER FELT LIKE WE'VE EXISTED AND CAST ASIDE OUR FACES AS THE SUFFERING PARIAHS OF THE WORLD...

FROM OUR CRAMPED APARTMENTS WITH THEIR CURTAINS PERMANENTLY DRAWN. .

...AND THE FILTH THAT COCKROACHES WALLOW IN...

...WE SHALL DECLARE WAR...

...ON THE REAL WORLD!

AND WE ARE ALL HEROES!

WE ARE ALL EHARA!

...SAKA-MOTO.

YOU'LL BE FIRED..

WERE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO ME, SAKAMOTO ?!

YES, BOSS

I SAID, IF YOU *EVER* CAUSE TROUBLE FOR THE FACTORY LIKE THIS AGAIN, YOU'LL BE *FIRED*

WHAT ?

FIRED ?!

しっちゃ

しっちゃ

しっちゃ

EVEN YOU OUGHT TO KNOW THAT THE FACTORY IS CURRENTLY AT ITS BUSIEST BECAUSE OF THE ANNUITY BOND PRINTING.

SINCE YOU WEREN'T AROUND, TSUJIMOTO HAD TO HANDLE ALL THE SECONDARY PRINTING BY HIMSELF.

AND YOUR FATHER RECENTLY COLLAPSED SO YOU'RE THE ONLY BREADWINNER NOW. YOU BETTER GET YOUR ACT TOGETHER!

I'M NOT TELLING YOU NOT TO TAKE ANY VACATION AT ALL.

I'M TELLING YOU TO KEEP IT IN MIND WHEN YOU DO!

MAN, THIS LUNCH BOX IS AWFUL

しっちゃ

I'M VERY SORRY, MR. TSUJIMOTO.

FOR NOW, I GUESS...

TAKURO, IS YOUR JOB SAFE?

E-EXCUSE ME.

YOU GOOD-FOR-NOTHIN'!

UGH.

YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT!

IT'S 'CAUSE OF A GIRL!

DON'T MENTION IT. I BET IT HAD TO DO WITH A GIRL, RIGHT?

T-

THESE ARE...

WHAT ARE THESE? DID YOU GET BIT BY A TICK OR SOMETHING?

GET OUTTA HERE! YOU'D DO THAT *TOO*? WELL THAT'S JUST UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR.

AIN'T NO BIG DEAL. WHEN I WAS YOUNG I USED TO TAKE DAYS OFF FROM WORK AND FOOL AROUND WITH GIRLS, TOO.

THEY ARE KISS MARKS!

EXACTLY!

OH, ARE THEY KISS MARKS?

LOOK AT HOW MANY OF 'EM I HAVE! ARE YOU GUYS IMPRESSED?!

OWWW

OWWW

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

WH-

PASSIONATE WOMEN ARE A REAL HANDFUL WHEN YOU BREAK UP WITH 'EM.

BUT, YOU KNOW, TAKURO...

YEAH?

BREAK UP?!

I'M GOING TO SPEND THE REST OF *MY LIFE* WITH THIS GIRL. I'M DEAD SERIOUS ABOUT HER!

IS THAT RIGHT ...?

LET'S HURRY UP AND FINISH OUR WORK THEN

OKAY!

GUESS WE MADE IT IN TIME SOMEHOW.

YUP.

OH YEAH, DID YOU SEE NAGAO YESTERDAY? I ASKED HER TO DROP BY YOUR PLACE.

...

AW, I'M REALLY SORRY..

...BUT MY G-GIRL-FRIEND'S WAITING.

HOW 'BOUT IT,

WANNA GO FOR A LIL' DRINK?

GOTTA BE NAGAO. WHAT'S SHE DOING HERE NOW?

WITH THAT KIND OF RECKLESS DRIVIN'?

SLAM

I SEE. NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT THAT.

SCREECH

OH, UM, WELL .

YESTERDAY I-I KIND OF LOST CONTROL IN FRONT OF MY GIRLFRIEND, AND RAISED MY HAND...

I-I'M TERRIBLY SORRY!

pant はあ

はあ pant はあ pant

EEEK!

WHAT'S WRONG ?

WE HAVE TO REPRINT EVERY-THING BY TOMORROW MORNING!

I'M SORRY, BUT A CUSTOMER CAME WITH A COMPLAINT.

WHAT?

W-WHAT AM I GONNA DO...?

CHAPTER 40:
THE TWO THAT CAN'T GO HOME

WE GOT A COM-PLAINT..

...ABOUT THE *INK BLEEDING ?!*

BUT WE PRINTED IT THE SAME WAY WE DO EVERY YEAR.

HMMM...

WELL, IT DID BLEED A BIT...

ON THE FLIP SIDE, IF YOU REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF INK TO AVOID BLEEDING, THE WORDS WON'T BE DARK ENOUGH AND THE TINT WON'T MATCH UP WITH THE FIRST PASS.

THE INK USED FOR THE SECOND PASS DOESN'T DRY WELL SO NO MATTER WHAT WE DO IT *ALWAYS* BLEEDS.

...BUT IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S ANY DIFFERENT FROM LAST TIME.

WHAT? YOU GOTTA BE *KIDDIN'* ME!

I WON'T BE SURE UNTIL I INSPECT IT, BUT WE'LL PROBABLY HAVE TO REDO THE SECOND PASS.

REPRINT *EVERY-THING?*

SO WHAT DO YOU WANT *US* TO DO?

THAT'S TRUE, AND UP UNTIL NOW IT HASN'T BEEN A PROBLEM ...

.. BUT THE PERSON IN CHARGE HAS CHANGED AND SUDDENLY THEY'RE BEING A LOT MORE STRINGENT ABOUT THE INK BLEEDING

...WE'LL HAVE TIME UNTIL THE NEXT DEADLINE, WHICH MIGHT BE ENOUGH TO FIX THE PROBLEM.

FOR NOW, IF WE CAN FINISH THE 30,000 SHEETS THAT MAKE UP THE KANTO REGION BY TOMORROW AFTERNOON'S DEADLINE...

AND YOU'RE SAYIN' THIS IS ALL BECAUSE THE PERSON IN CHARGE CHANGED?

IF IT'S ONE OF YOUR MALE CO-WORKERS, COULDN'T YOU HAVE JUST TAKEN HIM TO A CABARET CLUB AND TREATED HIM TO SOME EXPENSIVE FOOD AND MADE THE ISSUE GO AWAY? ISN'T THAT PART OF YOUR JOB?!

THIS IS ALL MY FAULT. I'M VERY SORRY!

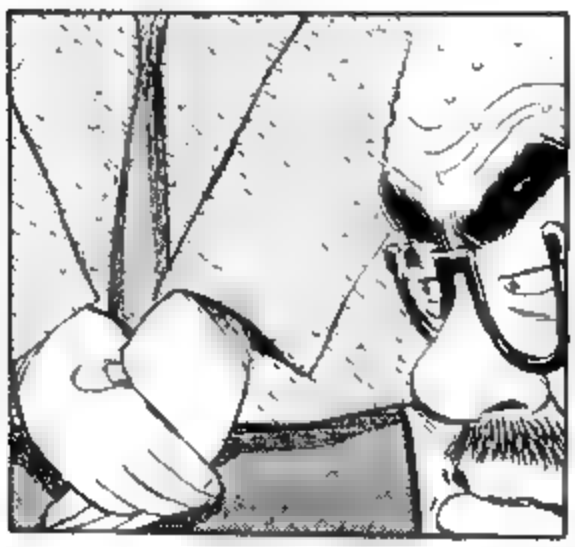
I'M SORRY TO ASK YOU TO DO THIS WHEN YOU'RE ALWAYS TIRING YOURSELVES OUT WORKING OVERTIME EVERYDAY.

ON TOP OF THAT, YOU'RE A ***WOMAN***. IF YOU'D USED YOUR FEMININE CHARM A BIT MORE...

...HE MIGHT HAVE GONE ALONG WITH IT

I HOPE YOU FORGIVE ME.

YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT.



WHY DIDN'T YOU CONTACT US A BIT EARLIER ABOUT THIS, ANYWAY?

NAH, I'M--

MR. TSUJIMOTO HERE WORKS OVERTIME EVERYDAY AND EVEN COMES OUT ON SATURDAY. GIVE THE POOR MAN A BREAK.

AND NOW YOU'RE BASICALLY TELLING US WE HAVE TO WORK ALL NIGHT TO FINISH IT, SO WE'RE THE ONES WHO END UP WITH THE SHORT END OF THE STICK.

I-

I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT!

MR. TSUJIMOTO, I CAN GET IT DONE BY MYSELF. YOU GO HOME AND GET SOME REST.

IF I START THE PRESSES NOW I CAN FINISH THE 30,000 SHEETS BY THE MORNING, SO JUST LEAVE IT TO ME!

WELL, NO SHIT!

DON'T ACT LIKE YOU'RE SOME KIND OF HERO!

OF COURSE YOU'RE GONNA BE THE ONE DOIN' IT AFTER YOU TOOK SUCH A NICE LONG BREAK!

NOT THE HAIR!

TAKURO

IN ANY CASE, SINCE WE'RE ONLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FIRST PASS THIS AIN'T OUR PROBLEM ANYWAY, SO WE'RE LEAVING. THE SPARES HAVE ALREADY BEEN PRINTED SO JUST USE THOSE.

ALL RIGHT. HERE, TAKE THIS. GOOD LUCK.

?

...

I'LL BE FINE! MR. TSUJI-MOTO, YOU GET SOME REST.

SURE YOU'RE GONNA BE OKAY BY YOURSELF? WANT ME TO HELP?

ドン

SOMETHING WRONG?

EEK!

N-NO, NOT AT ALL.

!!

ON SECOND THOUGHT, MAYBE I DO NEED YOUR HELP!

MR. TSUJI-MOTO, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU THINKING ?!

カーナヤ
カーナヤ
しにゃ
ナヤ
ナヤ
ナヤ
WH-
WHAT?
SHUSH
LOL
.. ALL RIGHT!
7
THE MEMORY'S BEEN LOWERED AND THE CONCENTRATION'S BEEN DILUTED ..
PREPARATIONS COMPLETE!

I JUST NEED TO ATTACH THIS WITH TAPE, RIGHT?

WHAT DO YOU THINK *YOU'RE* TALKING ABOUT? I CAN DO THIS, TOO

MS. NAGAO, I'LL BE FINE BY MYSELF SO YOU CAN GO HOME NOW.

W-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? OF COURSE I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.. SORT OF

OH, NOTHING ..

IT'S JUST THAT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE REALLY SEEN YOU ***WORKING*** DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING?

UH, YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG SIDE UP

HUH? REALLY?

BE QUIET !

O-

OKAY.

THE COLOR IS A BIT LIGHT, BUT THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT THAT

LET'S GO WITH THIS!

OKAY.

IT'S NOT BLEEDING THROUGH.

I TOTALLY FORGOT.

SORRY ...

THIS IS BAD! VERY BAD!

I'VE GOT TO STAY FAITHFUL TO TSUKIKO... TSUKIKO, I'LL BE HOME SOON!

どどどた

OKAY...

I'LL GO GET US SOMETHING. YOU CAN GO AHEAD AND START THE PRINTING.

ニヤニヤニヤニヤ

じゃあく

ミルミル

YES, MA'AM

ENOUGH ALREADY! JUST SHUT UP AND EAT!

D-DID YOU ..

.. MAKE THIS YOURSELF ?

NO, NO! I MEAN, ISN'T IT DIFFICULT TO MAKE FRIED RICE?

Y-YEAH, SHOULD I NOT HAVE?

SHUT UP!

YUMMY YUM YUM!

SO GOOD

IT'S REALLY GOOD.

DAMN IT'S GOOD.

ANYBODY COULD MAKE SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

IT'S GOOD.

I DON'T REALLY CARE...

WHAT-EVER.

W-

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT A WOMAN OTHER THAN MY MOTHER HAS COOKED FOR ME...

WHAT THE HELL?! ISN'T THIS BEER?!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

HERE, DRINK THIS!

!

THIS IS ALREADY THE SECOND

RELAX, IT'S JUST ONE GLASS.

IF I DON'T GET ANYTHING TO DRINK, I'M GONNA GO CRAZY!

FUCKING JERK!

YOU THINK IT'S THAT EASY TO BE CHARMING?!

RUNNIN' HIS MOUTH OFF LIKE HE KNOWS EVERY-THING!

THAT BALD GEEZER ...

I-I THINK ...

. YOU'RE CUTE, MS. NAGAO.

WHAT PART OF ME?!

AFTER ALL, I'VE GOT NO CHARM.

THAT'S WHY I ALWAYS LOSE MEN TO WOMEN WHO DO.

MY *SMILE* ?!

YOU'VE GOT A BEAUTIFUL SMILE

UHHHM, WELL, ER .

YOU CAN'T ANSWER, CAN YOU?!

SEE!

YOU DON'T EVEN *LOOK* PEOPLE IN THEIR FACES

YOU'RE ALWAYS COWERING BEFORE THEM. THAT'S WHY WOMEN WON'T APPROACH YOU.

I-I'VE GOT A GIRL-FRIEND, SO...

WHEN HAVE I EVER SMILED BEFORE?

WEREN'T YOU SMILING JUST NOW?

YOU'LL GET SICK OF IT IN NO TIME.

DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH. THAT'S JUST A GAME.

A GIRL-FRIEND?!

A...

SO, ARE YOU GONNA HOLE YOURSELF UP IN THAT ROOM AND PLAY THAT STUPID GAME FOR THE NEXT 10 OR 20 YEARS OF YOUR LIFE?

I WON'T!

I BET YOU WILL!

I-

I-I'M NOT GONNA GET SICK OF HER.

...IF IT'S A GAME OR REALITY!

I-

IT DOESN'T MATTER ...

SO WHAT'S THE GODDAMN POINT?!

HELL, THAT GIRL TSUKIKO DOESN'T EVEN REALLY EXIST!

I LOVE TSUKIKO!

I-I...

!!

?

ズズズ

H-

HOW STUPID.

FINE, SUIT YOURSELF!

GO AHEAD AND HIDE FROM REALITY FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE!

NO!

WATCH OUT, MS. NAGAO!

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ゴロ

OUCH...

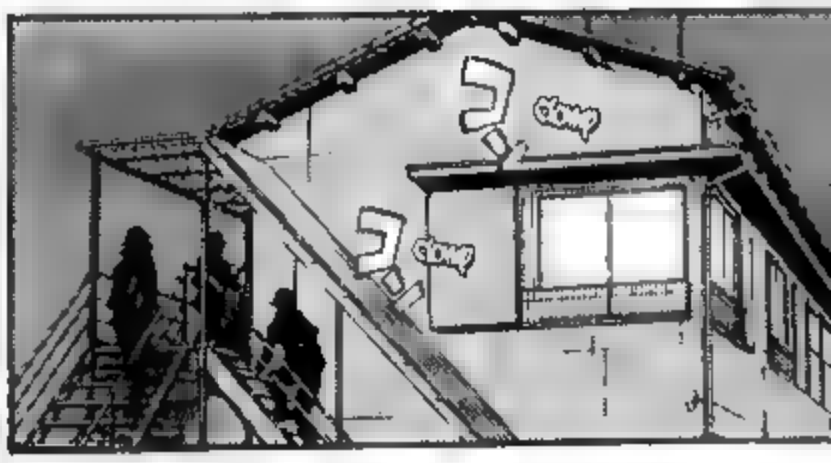
I-I'M FINE, BUT HURRY UP AND MOVE THE BOXES ON TOP OF MY HEAD!

A-ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ?!

IF YOU DON'T, I THINK WE MIGHT END UP K-KISSING!

THEN I'M NOT GOING TO MOVE THEM...

HUH?



CHAPTER 41:
A CHOICE

WOW,

SO THIS IS "MOON" ?

SHE LOOKS JUST LIKE A NORMAL GIRL

S-

SHE'S JUST WEARING AN APRON. LET'S TAKE IT OFF.

DO YOU EVEN HAVE COCK-SHEATHS?!

SHUT UP! WHY WOULD I HAVE SOMETHING EXPENSIVE LIKE THAT?!

STUPID TEENAGERS

OH,

GOOD THINKING! I WANNA COME *INSIDE* HER!

NOW THAT WE'RE HERE, WE MIGHT AS WELL HAVE SOME *ADULT FUN* WITH HER.

IT'S NOT LIKE SHE CAN GET PREG-NANT

UH HUH

UH HUH

THE ASSAULT SQUAD WAS SELECTED FROM PEOPLE...

...WHO *DON'T* HAVE COCK-SHEATHS.

THEN YOU CAN'T HAVE SEX, CAN YOU?!

GOD DAMMIT! I ONLY GET A 5000 YEN ALLOWANCE!

3

BWAAH!

YES, SIR...

MOVE YOUR HAND ASIDE.

MAYBE WE COULD FIST FUCK HER?

SHIT, MAN! I WANNA DO HER SO BAD!

WHAT'S WRONG ?

TOO SHOCKED TO TALK?

SHUT THE HELL UP ALREADY!

STOP IT, GUYS!

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GIVIN' ORDERS TO?!

YOU, RETARD!

WHAT THE FUCK ARE YOU MAGGOTS DOING?! HURRY UP AND FINISH THE JOB. RETARDS!

WHAT ?

WHAT IF "MOB" STARTS UP ?!

OUR COMPUTERS WILL GET *FRIED* IN AN INSTANT.

KNOCK IT OFF, YOU TWO!

DON'T GET SO ROWDY!

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR BOY-FRIEND?

IS HE STILL NOT BACK FROM "REALITY"?

YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW THAT? IT'S THE PROGRAM THAT *GUARDS* "MOON" AND "NOAH." THOUGH IT'S JUST A LEGEND

HEY, WHAT'S THIS "MOB"?

THAT'S RIGHT, "REALITY."

YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT IT, DON'T YOU?

...

"REALITY" ...?

IF YOU COME WITH ME,

I'LL SHOW YOU EVERYTHING THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT THIS "VIRTUAL REALITY."

I'LL EVEN SHOW YOU THE ***TRUE FORM*** OF YOUR BOYFRIEND.

M-

MOVE THE ***BOXES***.

NO,

NOT MY GLASSES...

Sign: Uoto Printing

I DON'T WANT TO.

M-MS. NAGAO'S TONGUE...?!

IS THIS A FRENCH KISS ?!

OH, IT TASTES LIKE FRIED RICE...

?!

WHA..

BLOOD?! IS IT MY GINGIVITIS?!

ぶひ
ぶひ
ぶひ
ぶひ
ぶひ

-G-
-GASP-

DID YOU NOT LIKE IT?
PONT はあ
S-
S-SORRY...
はあ PONT

ARE YOU KIDDING?! WHY WOULD I NOT LIKE IT?!
W-WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT WITH MY FILTHY MOUTH?! DID YOU HIT YOUR HEAD OR SOMETHING? ARE YOU SO STRESSED OUT THAT YOU WANT TO TAKE IT OUT ON YOURSELF?!

N-
N-
NOT AT ALL!

HUH?

...BUT I CAN'T LEAVE YOU ALONE.

I-I HATE YOU ..

QUIT BABBLING LIKE AN IDIOT!

AND DON'T TALK ABOUT YOURSELF THAT WAY.

WELL..

IF...

IF YOU DON'T HATE ME, THEN

UHM, IT'S A REAL HONOR...

UH...

. BUT I-I ALREADY HAVE T-TSUKIKO, SO...

P-PLEASE THROW IT ALL UP. IT'S BECAUSE YOU KISSED SOMEONE LIKE ME...

I-IDIOT! THAT'S NOT IT! =BRAGHK=

=BLEEGH=

HUH?! =GUWK=

NO L-LET'S JUST FORGET ABOUT IT I KNOW I WILL.

SORRY

ARE YOU REALLY, *REALLY* GONNA PLAY THAT GAME FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE?

SO,

TELL ME...

I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST.

P-PLEASE REST FOR A BIT

I-I'VE ALREADY GIVEN UP... ON REAL WOMEN SO, YES

HAVE YOU EVER TRIED PUTTING IN ANY EFFORT BEFORE YOU GIVE UP...?

YOU JUST QUIT ON YOUR OWN BEFORE YOU EVEN DO ANYTHING.

THAT SUBMISSIVE ATTITUDE OF YOURS REALLY PISSES ME OFF.

RIGHT?!

WAIT, NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.

DO YOU REALLY THINK I COULD GET AN ACTUAL GIRLFRIEND LIKE THIS?!

HELL NO YOU CANT!

B-B-BUT, LOOK AT ME! I'M BALD AND FAT, AND I'VE GOT GINGIVITIS.

NOT TO MENTION MY FORESKIN IS ALL MESSED UP!

BUT I'M MISSING THE MOST IMPORTANT THING-- SOMEONE TO DO IT FOR!

THOSE ARE ALL THINGS THAT YOU CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT!

NOBODY CARES IF YOU'RE BALD. AND IF YOU'RE FAT THEN JUST EXERCISE SOME MORE. IF YOU'VE GOT GINGIVITIS THEN GO SEE THE DENTIST.

THERE'S ONE...

...RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOUR EYES!

YOU HAVE ME...

I SEE
I HAVE

I WILL STOP..

...I WILL STOP PLAYING THAT GAME!

IF I CAN GET A REAL GIRL-FRIEND ...

ぼおおお

OKAY...

THEN, DO IT

SAKA-
MOTO ..

YOU DON'T HAPPEN TO HAVE ONE ON YOU, DO YOU?

O-ONE WHAT?

HUH?

YOU KNOW .

SAKAMOTO, YOU'RE HEAVY...

I-I'M SORRY!

OH!

THAT CAME OUT OF NOWHERE...

S-SORRY..

I GUESS YOU DON'T

CO-!

A C-CONDOM!

...

=PFFT=

hahahahahaha

DON'T ASK ME WHY, BUT I'VE GOT ONE!

I-

I'VE GOT ONE!

..

YES

OKAY...

H-

HERE WE GO

YOU WANNA DO IT?

O-

OKAY!

O-O-

Y-YOU'RE SO HEAVY!

I-

IT'S BEEN A WHILE FOR ME, SO DON'T RUSH, OKAY?

YOU REALLY NEED TO GO ON A DIET.

OKAY!

OKAY!

HOLD ME...

AHHH, THE WEATHER'S SO NICE!

AH!

OH, YOU MADE IT IN TIME!

MS. NAGAO, YOU NEED TO BE MORE CAREFUL! IF YOU SPEND ALL NIGHT WORKING WITH THAT FATTY YOU'LL GET RAPED!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I'M THE ONE WHO RAPED HIM.

MR. TSUJIMOTO, GOOD MORNING!

NO, OF COURSE NOT ..

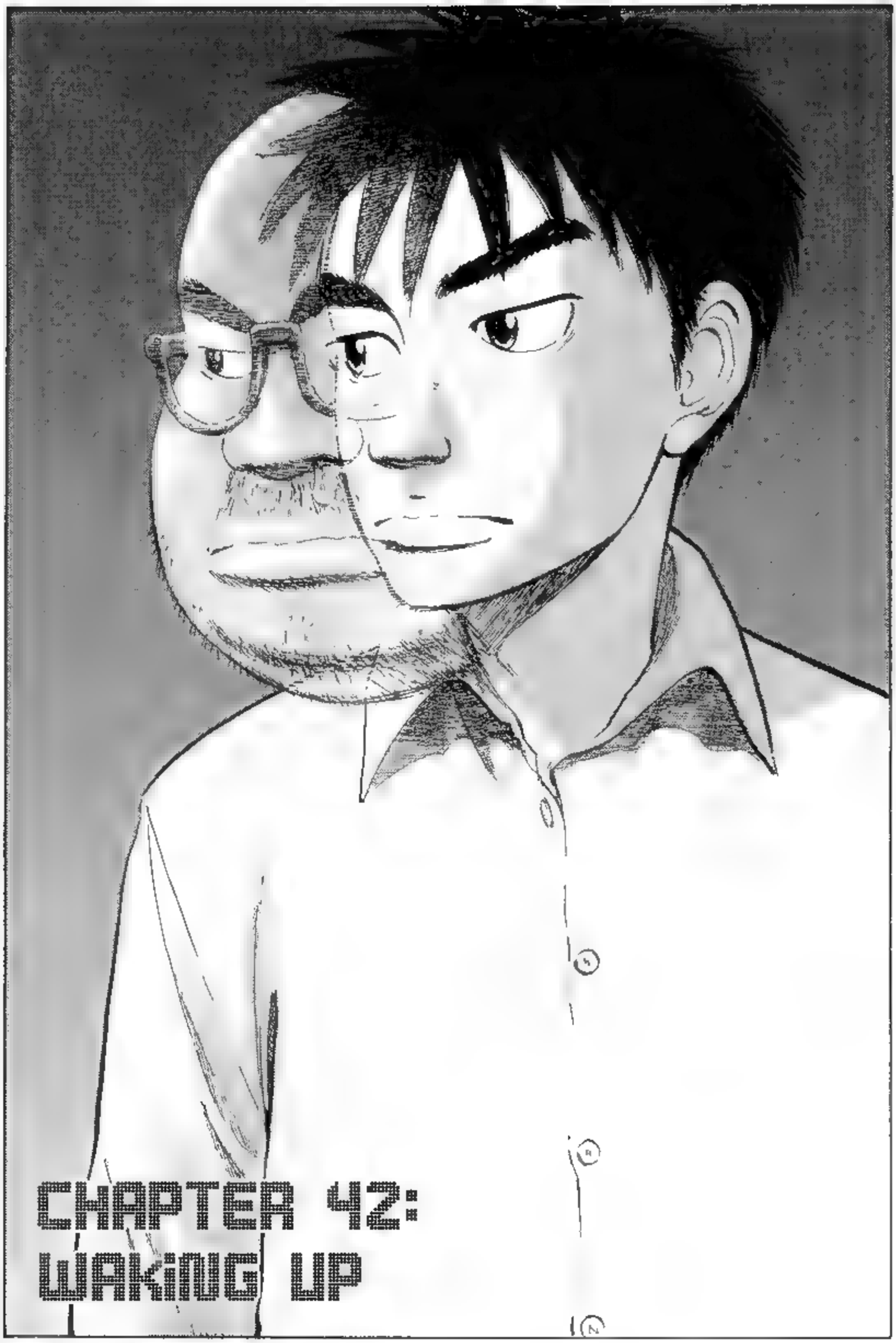
WHAT'S GOING ON, MR. TSUJI-MOTO,

TALKING ABOUT SEX AGAIN FIRST THING IN THE MORNING?

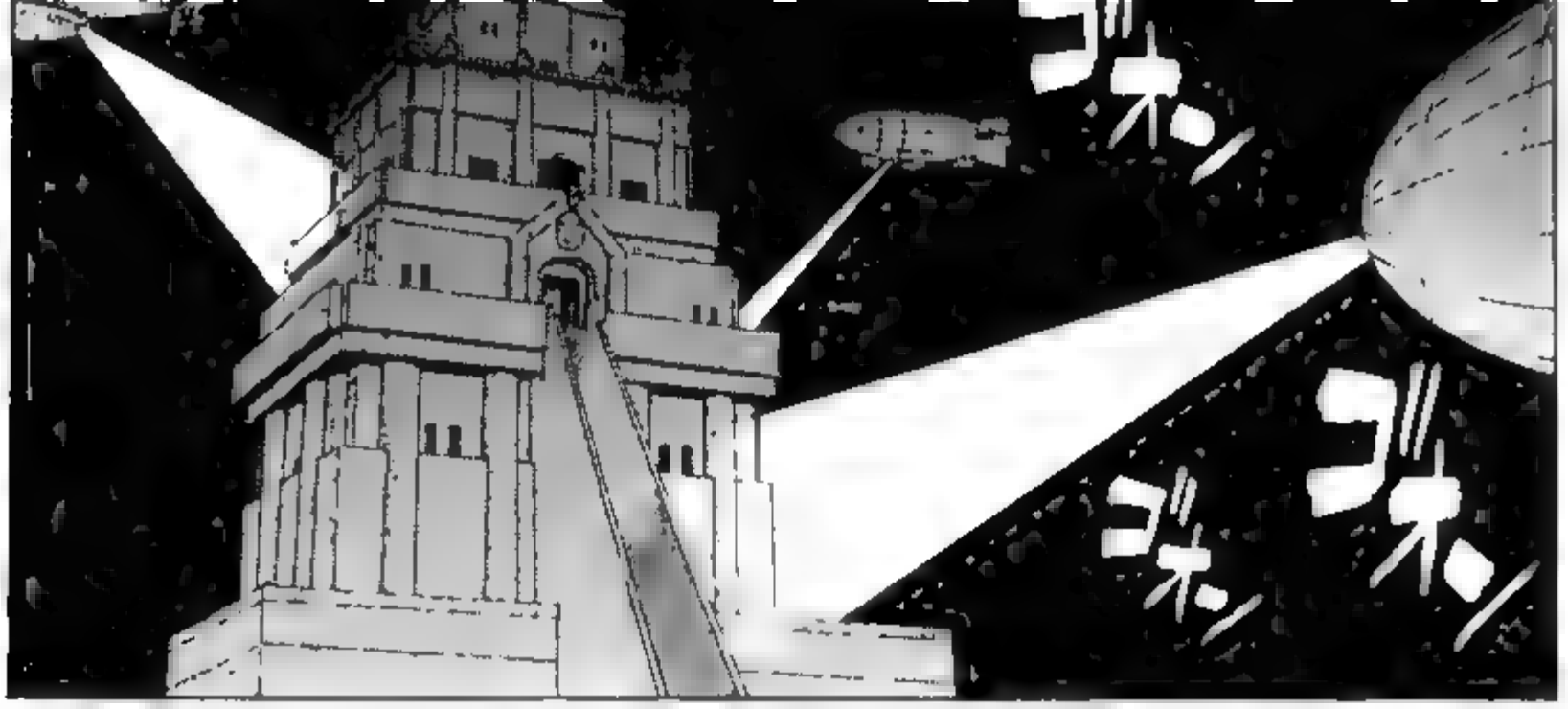
I-

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, MR. TSUJIMOTO!

TAKURO, DID YOU USE IT?



CHAPTER 42: WAKING UP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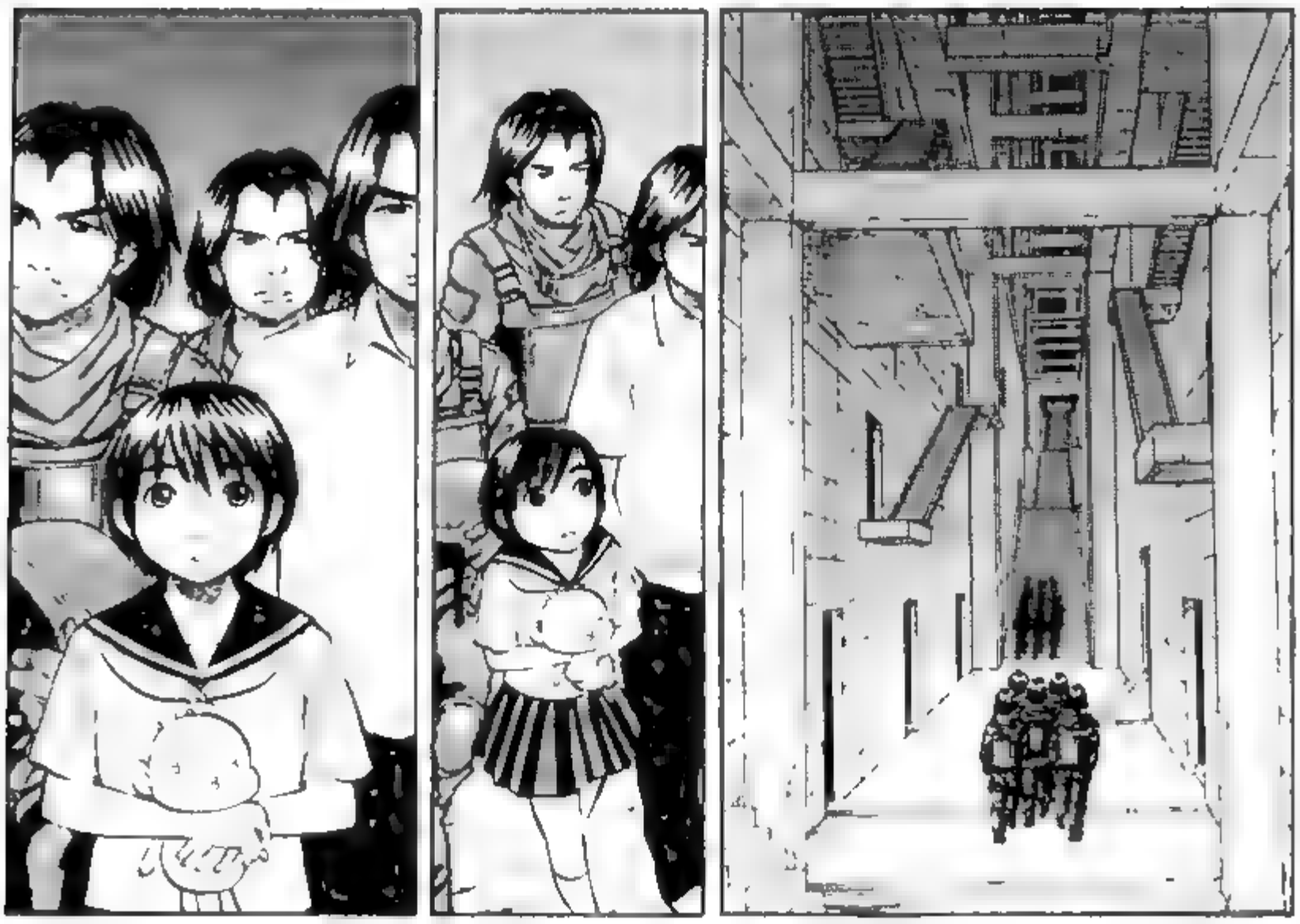

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EVERYONE LOOKS THE SAME

...?!

THE FUHRER WILL TELL YOU EVERYTHING.

IF YOU MEET HIM, YOU'LL UNDER-STAND.

THE FUHRER IS WAITING AT THE TOP.

YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN FROM HERE

FUHRER?

ゴォン

SO YOU'VE COME ..

"MOON."

HEY...

UM... WHAT'S "REALITY" ?

I THINK...

. I SAW ONE THAT SORT OF LOOKED DIFFER-ENT .

HAHA, ASKING QUESTIONS RIGHT OFF THE BAT, ARE WE?

FINE... ON THE WAY HERE, DID YOU SEE ANYONE WHO LOOKED DIFFERENT?

YOUR BOY-FRIEND ..

...ALSO CAME FROM THAT OTHER WORLD.

THOSE ARE OUR ***TRUE*** APPEAR-ANCES.

WE LIVE IN A DIFFERENT WORLD THAN THIS ONE.

YOUR POWER'S ALREADY BEEN RELEASED.

IF YOU WISH TO, YOU CAN SEE THE WORLD OF REALITY

AND THAT'S "REALITY"

DO YOU WANT TO SEE THE WORLD OF REALITY?

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE?

TAKURO
...

...

ええええええ!!

ミャミャミャ

せっせっせっ

なで　なで

TSUKIKO
...

I'M
SORRY...

SO, UMM, MRS SAKA-MOTO,

YOUR FAMILY USED TO BE IN THE BUSINESS OF MAKING BOXED LUNCHES?

THAT'S RIGHT.

BUT AFTER MY HUSBAND COLLAPSED, WE'VE BEEN ON BREAK EVER SINCE.

I SEE..

坂本弁当

Sign: Sakamoto Bento

WOULD YOU LIKE SOME FRIED DOUGH-COOKIES?

I GOT THEM FROM THE OLD LADY WHO LIVES BEHIND US.

OH, NO, I'M FINE...

...

ヒキ

ヒキ

I'M JUST A CO-WORKER. WE'RE NOT *THAT* CLOSE...

OH, NO, I-

I KNOW, I KNOW

...IF HE COULD FIND A GIRL TO COOK FOR HIM.

IT'D BE NICE...

WE HOPE SO, BUT HE CAN'T COOK.

WILL YOUR SON INHERIT THE BUSINESS ONE DAY?

I THOUGHT THAT HE'D NEVER HAVE ANY LUCK WITH THE OPPOSITE SEX FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE.

THAT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE ME HAPPY.

HE'S NEVER EVEN INVITED A WOMAN OVER TO THE HOUSE BEFORE...

OH, OKAY...

M-MS. NAGAO, PLEASE COME UP .

YES, MA'AM

TAKE YOUR TIME.

ビタ ビタ ビタ

A-ALL RIGHT, I GET IT!

TAKURO, HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA KEEP CLEANING?! MS. NAGAO IS HERE WAITING!

P-PLEASE COME IN.

THERE'S REALLY NOT MUCH HERE TO SEE, THOUGH.

YOUR MOM'S NICE

WATCH YOUR STEP

ギシ

YOU THINK SO?

UM, DO YOU WANT SOME CHIPS?

NO!

THIS ROOM ...

...IS REALLY DREARY

YOU'RE EATING ALL THIS JUNK EVEN THOUGH YOUR JOB INVOLVES PHYSICAL LABOR!

NO WONDER YOU'RE OVER-WEIGHT!

YEAH, PRETTY MUCH EVERY-DAY...

DO YOU ALWAYS EAT THIS SORT OF STUFF?

...

OKAY, NO MORE SNACKS.

I MEAN, YOU'RE GOING TO EAT DINNER LATER, AREN'T YOU?

WELL, I'VE GOT A PRETTY BIG APPETITE.

FROM NOW ON, NO MORE SNACKS!

WHAT?!

YOU OUGHT TO LOSE PLENTY OF WEIGHT JUST BY STAYING AWAY FROM THESE!

HMMM.

AOMORI

WHERE ARE YOU FROM, MS. NAGAO?

YOU SURE ARE LUCKY, LIVING AT HOME.

REALLY?!

YEAH, OF COURSE. YOU COME HOME AND THE BATH'S READY, THE FOOD'S ON THE TABLE, AND THE LAUNDRY'S EVEN FOLDED.

THAT'S 'CAUSE I'VE BEEN LIVING HERE FOR MORE THAN TEN YEARS, SO IT'S DISAP-PEARED.

WHAT? REALLY? I WAS SURE YOU WERE A CITY GIRL, 'CAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE AN ACCENT AT ALL.

NO WAY! I USED TO HAVE A BIG COMPLEX ABOUT IT.

I WANNA HEAR IT, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE!

...

I WANNA HEAR IT...

MY ACCENT USED TO BE PRETTY THICK AND IT MADE THINGS REALLY TOUGH FOR ME.

THOUGH.

I-I WON'T STOP TILL I HEAR IT.

WHY ?!

...EMB-WASSING.

THISH IS SHO...

2

ENOUGH!

CUTE

WHAT ?

IT'S SO CUTE...

SHUT UP!

TOO CUTE.

...

S-SO CUTE...

TAKURO, YOU DUMMY!

!

NO, WE CAN'T.

MMM ...

I CAME HERE TODAY...

. TO HELP YOU PACK UP YOUR COMPUTER.

Y-YOU'RE THE ONE WHO KISSED ME ***FIRST***, MS. NAGAO.

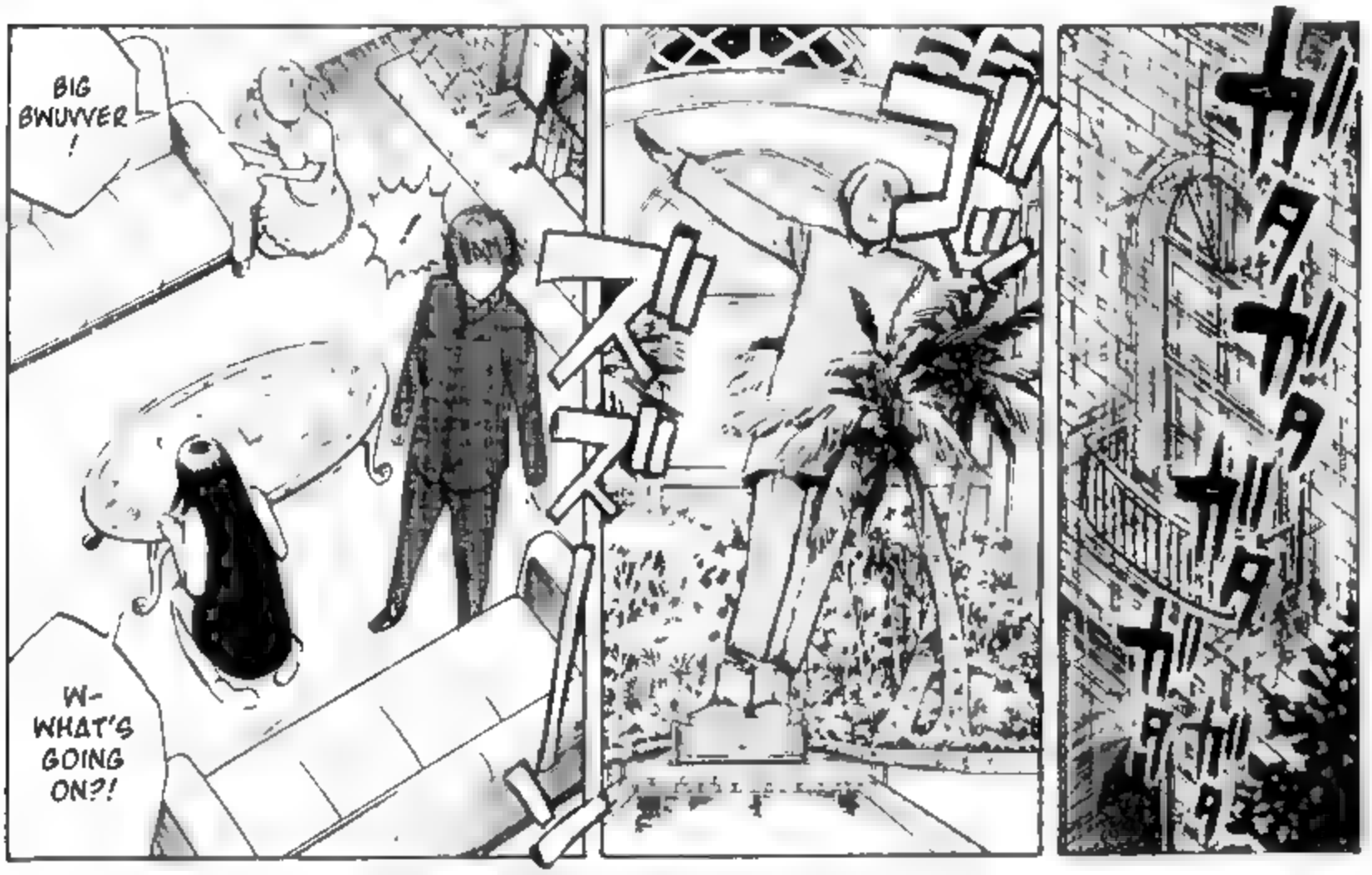
YEAH.
YOUR MOM'S DOWNSTAIRS, ISN'T SHE?

WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO, MOON?!

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?! MAN, WHAT A SURPRISE! HE'S GOT A WOMAN IN THE REAL WORLD!

WHA.

HE'S NOT GONNA COME BACK HERE TO YOU ANYMORE!


BIG BWUVVER!
W-WHAT'S GOING ON?!

WHAT ON EARTH COULD BE HAPPEN-ING?!

IT'LL STOP SOON
DON'T WORRY

CHAPTER 43: KUBRAH

GAHAHA!

I NEVER EXPECTED THIS! I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S GOT A GIRL IN THE REAL WORLD!

SNIFF

GA HA HA HA HA HA!

SHE'S PISSED, SHE'S PISSED, I'M SO SCARED!

RU-OHHH!

SHUT UP!

HEY NOW, DON'T CRY, YOU'VE STILL GOT ME.

YOU WANNA HAVE SEX OR SOME-THIN'? I'M STILL A VIRGIN THOUGH.

2

LET GO OF TAKURO! IT'S NOT FAIR! HE'S ONLY KISSED ME ONCE BEFORE!

STOP THAT, STUPID!

IT'S USE-LESS.

LOOK AT THAT.

THOSE TWO ARE AT IT AGAIN.

FOR NOW.

THEY'RE IN THE REAL WORLD. YOU CAN'T LAY YOUR HANDS ON THEM...

WHAT THE HECK IS THE REAL WORLD?!

YOU GOT LIPSTICK ON YOU AGAIN.

IT'S THE WORLD THAT BUILT THIS ONE.

THE *ACTUAL* WORLD.

YOU WERE BUILT IN THE REAL WORLD, TOO.
AS NOTHING MORE THAN A TOY
THERE'S NO WAY A TOY...
...CAN COMPETE WITH A REAL WOMAN.

TA-

TAKURO...

TAKURO, I'M TALKING TO YOU!

TAKURO, CAN'T YOU HEAR ME?!

?!!

?!

THESE ARE THEIR TRUE APPEARANCES! THIS IS THE GUY WHO FOOLED YOU!
I'LL DO IT MYSELF
DO YOU HAVE SOMEONE TO DRIVE YOU?

A AKURO ?

GAHAHA!
OOH! JUST WHEN I THOUGHT
WE WERE GONNA GET THE REAL WORLD CROSS OVER INTO THIS ONE
I KNEW IT, IT'S JUST SOME UGLY OLD DUDE!

...AND HE CHEATED ON YOU WITH HIS WOMAN IN THE REAL WORLD.

HE FOOLED YOU BY CHANGING HIS UGLY MUG...

?!

YOU SHUT UP!

THAT WAS CLOSE.

GAHA!

HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

YOU LISTENING TO ME?!

YOU THINK I'M JUST GONNA GIVE HIM TO YOU?!

JEEZ!

I HATE YOU!

だっ

TSUKIKO
...

TA-

TAKURO!

I'M SHUTTING IT.

YES

IS THAT EVERY-THING?

SONY HMD

.. I EXPECT YOU TO PAY ME BACK MY 100,000 YEN

JUST SO YOU KNOW..

YES, MA'AM ..

OKAY THEN, LET'S GO SELL IT TOMORROW AFTER WORK SHIBUYA, WAS IT?

YEAH ..

WANNA COME TO MY PLACE?

THEN I'M GONNA GET GOING... GOOD NIGHT

G-GOOD NIGHT..

MS NAGAO I DIDN'T KNOW YOU LIKE TO SING

OH, COME ON, I SING SOME-TIMES!

S-SORRY

BEEP

AS I SANG THE LOVE SONG, I RECEIVED A MESSAGE...

. A NOTE THAT WAS EDGED IN BLACK*

ウィーン

I DON'T KNOW ANY NEW ONES AT ALL.

ME NEITHER.

TARGET CON-FIRMED.

I ONLY SING OLD SONGS THOUGH

* From "Kassai" (Applause), a 1972 song by Naomi Chiaki

I GUESS I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A LITTLE OUT OF SYNC WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD. EVEN WHEN IT COMES TO DATING GUYS, I GET THE ORDER ALL MIXED UP

IT MIGHT BE A LITTLE LATE TO ASK YOU THIS, BUT ARE YOU REALLY SURE YOU WANT TO BE WITH ME?

OH...

ALL RIGHT THEN, GIVE ME A SMOKE.

RIGHT AWAY!

O-OF COURSE, IF ANYTHING, YOU'RE **WAY** TOO GOOD FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME!

I'M WARNING YOU, I CAN BE A PAIN IN THE NECK.

T-THAT'S JUST THE WAY I LIKE IT!

LIGHT.

YES, MA'AM!

YOU DON'T LIKE WOMEN WHO SMOKE, RIGHT?

THIS IS MY LAST ONE. I'M GOING TO QUIT SMOKING.

IN EXCHANGE, YOU BETTER MAKE SURE YOU KEEP UP WITH YOUR DIET. GOT IT?!

Y-YES!

I WAS THINKING ABOUT QUITTING ANYWAY.

I-I DON'T MIND.

Y-YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO THAT FAR BECAUSE OF ME.

NO, I'VE ALREADY DECIDED.

O-OKAY..

I'LL TRY.

YOU NEED TO ACT MORE LIKE A MAN.

AND ANOTHER THING

YOU'RE WAY TOO TIMID!

S-SORRY.

...

OKAY...

WELL, WHAT-EVER.

LET'S JUST TAKE IT SLOW.

YOU ACT LIKE A REAL MAN WHEN WE'RE HAVING SEX THOUGH...

R-REALLY?

HEY, THESE ARE ALL SNACKS! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR DIET?!

S-SORRY!

THAT WAS SO EMBA-WAS-SING.

NOW I CAN'T SHOP AT THAT PLACE FOR A WHILE

S-SORRY.

IT'S A LITTLE BIT MESSY, BUT PLEASE COME IN!

TH-

THANKS FOR INVITING ME.

3290 YEN PLEASE.

OKAY ...

WHAT?

HUH?

WHERE'S MY WALLET ?!

SORRY, DO YOU MIND IF I TAKE A SHOWER FIRST?

O-OF COURSE NOT! PLEASE DON'T MIND ME!

I'VE FINALLY GOT A REAL GIRL-FRIEND!

0.0001mg

TAKURO?

HUH ?!

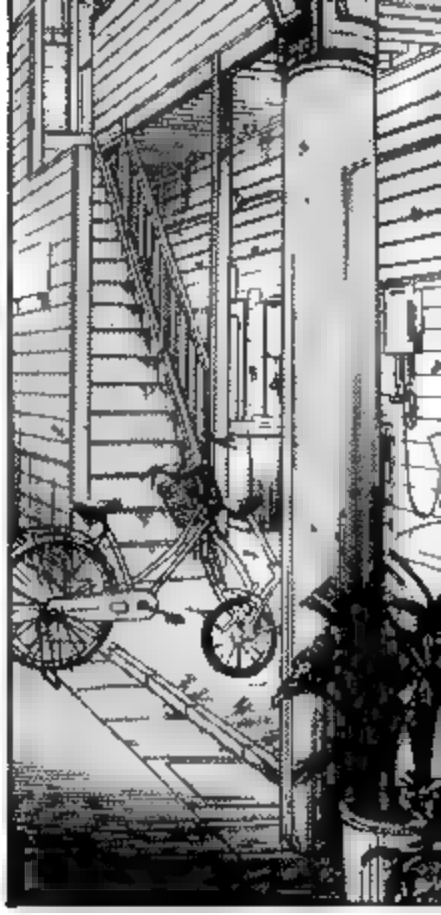
HUH, NOBODY EVER CALLS MY CELL...

RRRRRRR

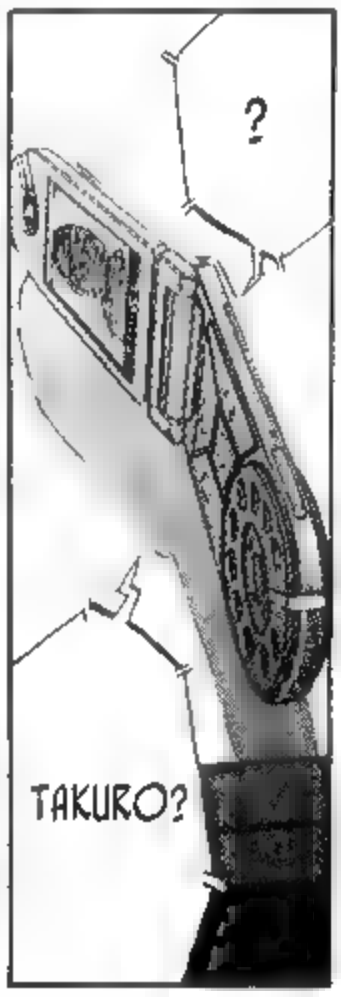
IT'S PROBABLY JUST ECHIGO...

CHAPTER 44: DECLARATION OF WAR

J-PHONE



TSUKIKO ?!
ぶぴ
ぶぴ
ぶぴ
ぶぴ
TSU-
TSU-
TSU-
ぶぴ!


?
TAKURO?

AIEEEE !

2

Y-YES ?!
TAKURO!

TAKURO... WHERE ARE YOU? I DON'T SEE YOU.
WHY HAVEN'T YOU COME HOME, TAKURO?

TSUKIKO
...

I...

clench clench

TSU-

JEEZ, AND I...

...WAS WAITING FOR YOU WITH NOTHING ON BUT AN APRON 'CAUSE YOU LIKE IT SO MUCH.

LET'S HAVE LOTS OF SEX.

I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU WANT ME TO DO.

TAKURO,

I'M NOT MAD, SO HURRY UP AND COME BACK HOME, OKAY?

I--

I...

I...

TSUKIKO
..

I...

GIVE ME BACK...

...
TAKURO.

NO THANKS.

SAKAMOTO SAID...

...HE WON'T BE COMING BACK TO YOU ANYMORE. WHAT A SHAME!

WHO THE HELL WOULD GIVE HIM BACK.

. TO A LITTLE SLUT LIKE YOU?!

GIVE HIM BACK...

...YOU WITCH!

...THEN COME AND GET HIM!

IF YOU WANT HIM THAT BAD...

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT JUST NOW!? WHY WAS SHE ON YOUR CELL PHONE?!

I-I DON'T *KNOW* WHAT'S GOING ON, EITHER! PLEASE STOP PULLING *MY HAIR!*

YOU PISS ME OFF SO MUCH!

GET OUT OF HERE!

WHAT WERE YOU DOING BACK THERE?! WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST BREAK IT OFF WITH HER?

HEY..

SAKA-MOTO.

...YES?

whirrr

whirrrrr

WOMEN ARE SO SCARY .

BAHOO BAHOO

TAKURO ...

SO ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS MAKE ONE IN *THIS WORLD*.

A "TAKURO SAKAMOTO."

WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO? SHE SAID TO COME AND GET HIM.

BUT YOU KNOW THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE.

IF YOU CAN GET YOUR HANDS ON JUST A SINGLE HAIR ON HIS HEAD FROM THE REAL WORLD...

...THEN YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DECODE ALL OF "TAKURO SAKAMOTO"'S GENETIC INFORMA-TION AND CREATE VIRTUAL GENES.

AND I'VE GOT PLENTY OF FRIENDS WHO CAN HELP US OUT IN THE REAL WORLD

I CAN DO THAT?

IT SHOULD BE EASY FOR YOU.

HOWEVER

HIS HEAD WILL BE COMPLETELY EMPTY. HE WON'T HAVE ANY MEMORIES.

YEAH...

NEXT YOU INJECT HIS GENES INTO A VIRTUAL EGG, AND THEN LET HIM MATURE.

WELL, WE CAN STOP THE PROCESS BEFORE HE TURNS OUT LIKE THIS GUY OVER HERE.

HE DOESN'T NEED ANY MEMORIES BESIDES THOSE. IT'S NOT LIKE HE HAS ANY OTHER MEMORIES WORTH SAVING ANYWAY.

SO WE'LL HAVE TO INSTALL THE MEMORIES OF THE TIME HE SPENT TOGETHER WITH YOU.

YOUR OWN PERSONAL "TAKURO SAKAMOTO." ONE THAT EXISTS JUST FOR YOU.

HE'LL ONLY HAVE MEMORIES OF THE TIME HE SPENT WITH YOU.

THAT'S RIGHT.

JUST FOR YOU

JUST

FOR ME

...IF YOU *DELETE* THE "TAKURO SAKAMOTO" THAT EXISTS IN THE REAL WORLD, YOUR NEWLY MADE TAKURO WILL BECOME THE *REAL* ONE.

AND THEN...

OR WOULD YOU RATHER LOSE HIM TO THAT WOMAN?

YOU SHOULD DO AS I SAY.

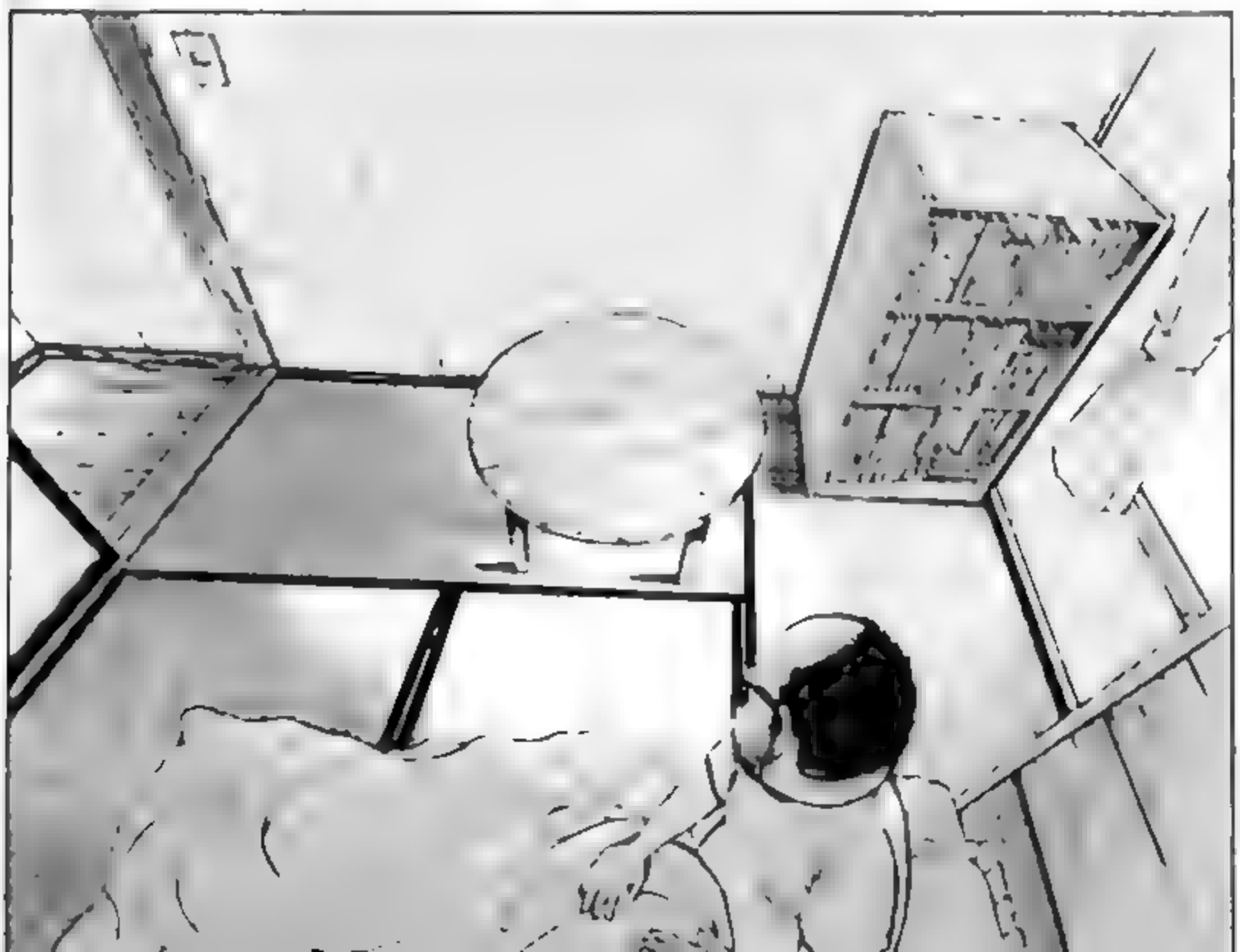
IF YOU DO, YOU'LL GET HIM BACK.

ATTA-GIRL.

...ALL RIGHT.

ee

MY MUSCLES ARE SO SORE
HOW FAR DID I WALK ?
OWWW
=GAGP=



I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THE SITUATION IS NOW.. DID MS. NAGAO DUMP ME?

IF THAT'S THE CASE THEN I MIGHT AS WELL GET MY COMPUTER BACK AND MAKE UP WITH TSUKIKO.

JEEZ ...

WHY WON'T THIS LIGHT TURN GREEN?

THEN...

WHAT THE HELL SHOULD I DO?

I CAN'T BE THAT INDECISIVE ABOUT IT!

NO! NO!

HUH?

clunk clunk clunk

clunk clunk clunk

WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
!!!
ナニャ
ナニャ
ナニャ

WE NOW INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM FOR AN EMERGENCY TRAFFIC REPORT.

AND ...

...WHY THE HELL IS IT SO SLOW? WHAT'S GOING ON?!

IF THERE ARE ANY POLICE OFFICERS PRESENT, PLEASE FOLLOW THEIR DIRECTIONS...

PLEASE EXERCISE CAUTION WHILE DRIVING.

CURRENTLY, ALL OF THE TRAFFIC LIGHTS IN THE CITY ARE RED.

NO WAY, I CAN'T BELIEVE IT

HUH?

ギャアアアアア

Ooohhh

WOOF ワン

シャカ

...

SYASEIDO

?

GOOD MORNING.

OH, MY CELL PHONE'S RINGING.

KRRRR

KRRRR

...

SAKA-MOTO?

ANYWAY...

I'LL BE TAKING TAKURO BACK.

IT'S TSUKIKO.

OH MY, YOUR MAKE-UP DOESN'T LOOK TOO GREAT. IT MUST SUCK GETTING OLD.

THAT LITTLE BITCH!

SEE YOU. BYE-BYE!

...

NEW ORDERS RECEIVED!

CON-FIRMED!

NOW UNFAS-TENING THE BILL-BOARD!

WOOF

WOOF

WOOF

WATCH OUT, SAKA-MOTO! MOVE!

HUH ?!

?!

OOF!

OH, FORGET IT!

MS. NAGAO ?!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING!? HURRY UP AND GET IN!

O-OKAY ...

!!

MAYBE IT'S TIME TO BRING OUT THE NUKES.

WELL, WELL...

WHAT DO WE DO NOW?!

AHHHH, THEY GOT AWAY!

Shirt: Hunger

THE NINTH EMPIRE HAS ATTACKED FANTASIA?

2

THOUGH THEY HAVE THE ADVANTAGE BY NUMBERS ALONE...

...THE HUGE NUMBER OF GUILDS ALSO RENDERS THEM INCAPABLE OF ANY SYSTEMATIC COMBAT, UNFORTUNATELY.

THERE HAVE BEEN SOME SMALL SKIRMISHES, BUT THE NINTH EMPIRE WON ALL OF THEM

THOSE BASTARDS HAVE FINALLY MADE THEIR MOVE

THAT'S CORRECT

ON FANTASIA'S SIDE, THEY'RE CREATING AN ALLIED ARMY IN ORDER TO HOLD THEM BACK, WITH THE ASTONIA KINGDOM AT ITS CENTER.

CURRENTLY, THEIR TROOPS ARE ADVANCING INTO THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE, THE FIELD OF ATTACHMENT.

WE MUST COMBINE THE STRENGTH OF THE RPG GUILDS AND THE GAL-GAME GUILDS...

AND DEFEAT THE FUHRER OF THE NINTH EMPIRE, EHARA. EHARA ONLY DESIRES DESTRUCTION...

...I'VE COME AS A REPRE-SENTATIVE OF THE ASTONIA KINGDOM. WE WISH TO BORROW YOUR STRENGTH

LORD REINHART ...

FIGHT WITH US, LORD REINHART!

. WHO HAS EXPERIENCED THE TWO GREAT WARS, WE WILL BE ABLE TO RALLY OUR CAUSE!

UNDER YOUR LEAD AS A MAGIC USER...

KING OF ASTONIA ...

...MY STANCE ON THIS MATTER HAS ALREADY BEEN DECIDED.

?

WHAT'S GOING ON? ARE YOU GOING SOME-WHERE?

LORD REINHART-WOLFGANG SCHNAUFER, BY ORDER OF THE KING OF ASTONIA, YOU ARE NOW THE SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE FANTASIA ALLIED ARMY

THIS IS THE ONLY WORLD I HAVE.

FOR THE SAKE OF THIS WORLD, AND FOR THE SAKE OF THESE GIRLS, I SHALL STAKE MY LIFE.

KAREN, IF YOU JOIN ME IN THIS BATTLE, YOU MIGHT DIE ONCE AGAIN...

WILL YOU DO IT ANYWAY?

NOTICE OF RENT

PAYMENT DUE

FROM THE LANDLORD

OF COURSE ...

WE'LL BE TOGETHER FOREVER, KAREN.

DAMN YOU, TAKURO! NOW I CAN'T HAVE SEX 'CAUSE I DON'T HAVE MY BODY SUIT!

WILL I STILL BE ABLE TO LIVE WITH YOU?

EVEN IF I LOSE MY MEMORY,

OF COURSE.

ABOUT HALF.

HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE WE AT SO FAR?

I ENDED UP GETTING OFF THE BUS MID-WAY AND WALKING THE REST.

I FINALLY GOT IN.

JEEZ

Sign: Ueto Printing

CG?

IT'S ALL CG.

OHH, THIS ANCHOR'S PRETTY CUTE.

HEY..

THE NEWS IS ON

HER FACE IS CHANG-ING

PROBABLY SOME TECHNICAL GLITCHES. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN *HER*... SHE'S PRETTY CUTE.

?

THE AREAS WHERE THE RESTORATION OF THE TRAFFIC LIGHTS ARE DELAYED ARE...

COMPUTER GRAPHICS. I GUESS IT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ANCHORS.

THE CRIMINAL RESPONSIBLE APPEARS TO BE HIDING WITH N CITY LIMITS.

THIS IS A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT. AUTHORITIES HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE SUDDEN SUS-PENSION OF ALL TRAFFIC LIGHTS IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA WAS AN ACT OF TERRORISM.

NO WAY!

FOR THOSE WHO CAN PROVIDE US WITH IMPORTANT INFORMATION LEADING TO THE APPREHENSION OF THIS CRIMINAL...

THE SUSPECT, TAKURO SAKAMOTO, IS CURRENTLY WANTED FOR QUESTIONING.

SAKAMOTO WAS FORMERLY A MEMBER OF A GUERRILLA ORGANIZATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST...

...

WE HOPE THAT YOU'LL ALL COOPERATE.

T-TSUKIKO

...THE GOVERNMENT IS WILLING TO PAY A CASH PRIZE OF ONE BILLION YEN.

ONE BILLION ?!

WHOO~

WHY DO YOU STILL HAVE YOUR COMPUTER WITH YOU?! GET RID OF IT!

BUT IT'D BE SUCH A WASTE...

L-LET'S KEEP MOVING!

AGHH!

KOOKK

N-NOT THE HAIR, PLEASE!

HEHEHE... YOU'RE NOT GONNA GET ANYWHERE TAKING YOUR TIME LIKE THIS. LET'S JUST NUKE 'EM

NO! THERE'S NO REASON TO KILL INNOCENT BYSTANDERS.

IN THAT CASE, THE SPECIAL REALITY WORK SQUAD OF OUR ARMY HAS ALREADY PROCURED THE GARBAGE BAGS FROM THE SAKAMOTO HOUSEHOLD

AND WOULDN'T YOU KNOW, THEY'VE FOUND SOME JIZZ TISSUES, SO WE'VE ALREADY SECURED HIS DNA

ALL WE NEED TO DO IS CAPTURE HIM. TAKURO'S DNA IS THE ONLY THING I WANT.

YOU NEED TO MAKE THE UNREAL WORLD THE ***REAL*** THING

IF TAKURO'S STILL ALIVE IN THE REAL WORLD, THEN THE ONE OVER HERE HAS TO BE A ***FAKE***.

NOW YOU CAN LAUNCH THE NUKES WITHOUT WORRYING YOUR LITTLE HEAD TOO MUCH, RIGHT?

WHY AM I...

. WANTED FOR QUES-TIONING?

HOW THE HELL SHOULD I KNOW?! WHY DON'T YOU TRY ASKING THAT BITCH?!

MS. NAGAO, DO YOU WANT TO SWITCH?

I'M FINE!

S-SOME-HOW. BUT THEY MADE OFF WITH A HUGE CHUNK OF MY HAIR .

STAY FOCUSED, HAVE WE LOST THOSE VACUUM CLEANERS ?

YOU'RE A MAN, AREN'T YOU!? STOP CRYING ABOUT IT!

...THAT I WASN'T GOING TO HOLD BACK ANYMORE!

はあっ はあっ はあっ pant pant pant pant

I'VE ALREADY DECIDED ...

YOU THINK I'M JUST GONNA...

I'LL PROTECT YOU EVEN IF IT KILLS ME!

HEY, ARE YOU EVEN LISTEN-ING?!

I-I AM.

...ROLL OVER DEAD AND GIVE UP ..

...THE MAN I LIKE TO SOMEONE ELSE?!

SO...

GOT IT?

DON'T LEAVE ME BY MYSELF!

ARE YOU OKAY?

OWW!

HUH? YOU CAN FIND FATTIES LIKE HIM ALL OVER THE PLACE

HEY, DOESN'T THAT LOOK LIKE THE DUDE WHO'S WANTED FOR QUES-TIONING?

WAH!

WHOA!

AHHH!

I-I'LL PEDAL.

IS YOUR COMPUTER OKAY?

SORRY.

T-T-T-

huff

huff

huff

pant pant

I TOLD YOU IT'S *FINE* YOU'VE GOT TO CARRY YOUR COMPUTER, RIGHT?

TO HELL WITH IT!

ガオー!

...

OKAY ..

ENOUGH TALKING! JUST GET BEHIND ME!

WHOA!

HUH?!

WHAT'S THAT?

H-HEY!

D-DON'T GRAB HOLD OF MY NIPPLES!

BUT THEY'RE THE *ONLY* THING I CAN HOLD ONTO.

TAKURO, IT'S TSUKIKO!

WAIT, IT'S ME!

HEY, CALL ME MARIA.

DROP THE MISS!

M-M-MS. M-M-M-M-MARIA...

M-M-

WELL, THAT WAS SORT OF ANTI-CLIMACTIC.

IT WAS SO EASY TO LOSE...

W-WHERE SHOULD WE RUN, MS. NAGAO?

TAKURO...

MARIA, COME WITH ME!

TAKURO, WAIT FOR ME!

HEY! STOP PICKING UP THE GARBAGE!

OF COURSE!

WHOA!

AIEE?!

ぬぬぬぬぬ
ぬぬぬぬぬ
ぬぬぬぬぬ

はあ
はあ
はあ

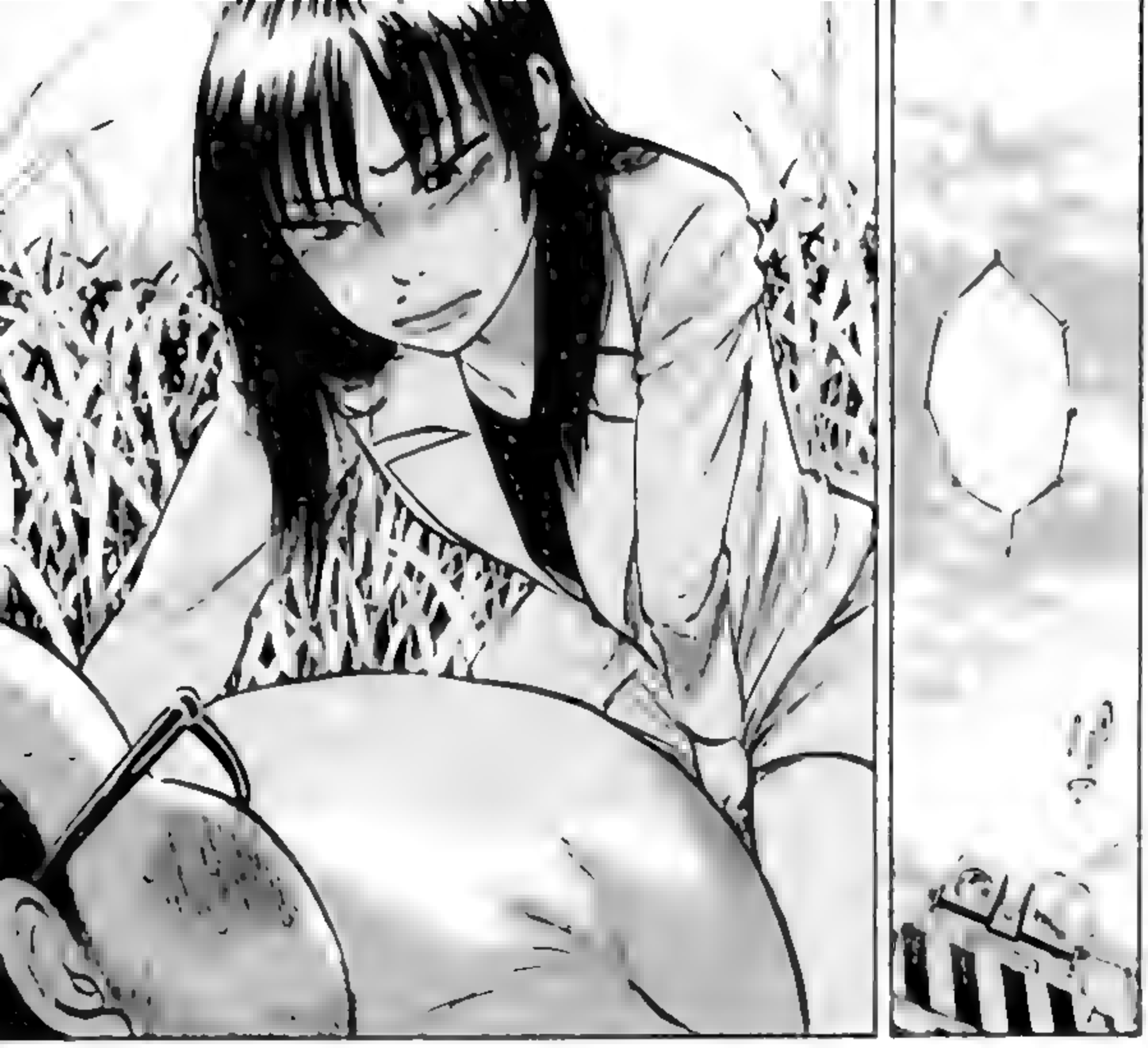
T-THERE'S NEVER A DULL MOMENT WITH YOU.
S-SORRY..

GAGH

ガチャ
ガチャ

ポイッ

ビュン



HELLO?
GETTING
FURTHER
AWAY
FROM
ME
MMM

ha ha ha ha!

WHATCHA GONNA DO, "MOON"?

I'M ALL ALONE...

EVERY-ONE...

...CAN ROT IN HELL.

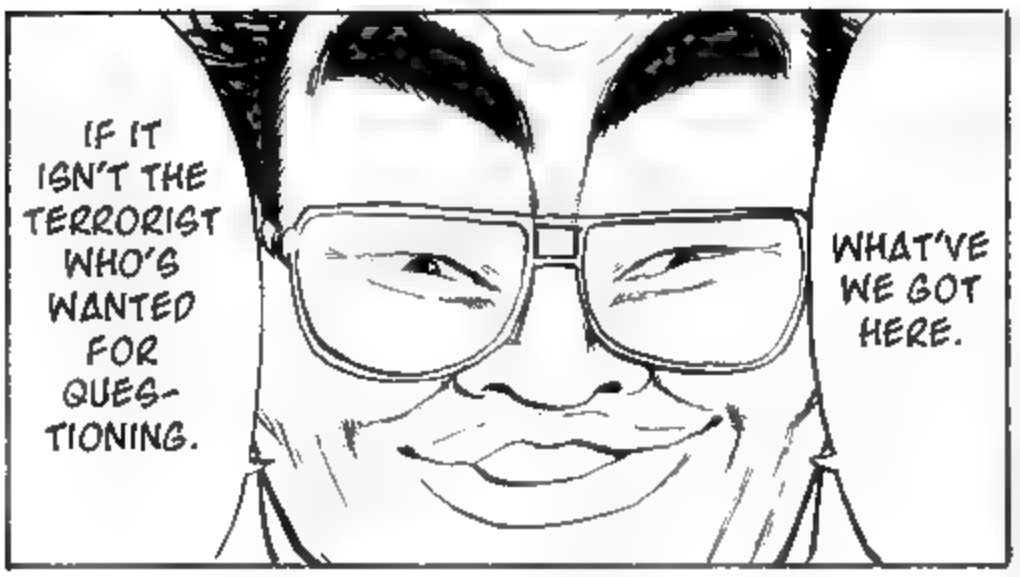
WHAT THE HECK ARE THEY DOING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY?

MMH ...

AHH ..

CHAPTER 46: DOCTOR

!!!
YO.


IF IT ISN'T THE TERRORIST WHO'S WANTED FOR QUES-TIONING.
WHAT'VE WE GOT HERE.

2

T-THAT WAS JUST A FAKE REPORT. DO YOU REALLY THINK SOME-ONE WITH SUCH A STUPID FACE COULD BE A TERRORIST?

MUST BE MY LUCKY DAY. HERE COMES MY ONE BILLION YEN.

OHO?
GO HO HO HO
GEE, YOU TWO SURE ARE LIVELY THIS AFTER-NOON ..

I KNOW, I KNOW.

BUT IF YOU'RE OUT HERE ENJOYING YOUR-SELVES, YOU'LL GET SPOTTED RIGHT AWAY

COME THIS WAY

D'YOU KNOW WHERE MY PANTIES ARE?

I-I DON'T.

ALRIGHTY THEN.

SIT WHERE-EVER YOU WANT.

OH, COME ON. HOW COULD YOU FORGET THIS HANDSOME FACE?

WHO *ARE* YOU?

WHA?

MAN, YOU REALLY GOT YOURSELF INTO A BIG MESS... TAKURO. HOW'S REINHART DOING?

WHO'S THIS GUY?

WELL, I MET HIM IN THE GAME. USUALLY PEOPLE CHANGE THEIR FACES, BUT HE LOOKED THE SAME AS HE DOES IN REALITY.

SO YOU FINALLY REMEMBER.

D-DOCTOR?!

OH...

I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND THOSE PEOPLE WHO CHANGE THEIR OWN APPEARANCES AND SHAPE.

THE GUYS WHO DEVELOPED THIS SYSTEM, SOME OF THEM EVEN CHANGED THEIR OWN PERSONALITIES.

IF YOU GO THAT FAR, WON'T YOU BECOME A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON? HOW SAD IS THAT?

IT'S ALL MOON'S

I MEAN, TSUKIKO'S DOING

THEN MAYBE YOU CAN TELL US WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON.

HE WAS ATTACKED BY ***ROBOTS*** AND ALMOST DIED!

A-ARE ***YOU*** THE CREATOR OF THIS GAME?!

WELL, I'M ONE OF THEM. I GOT KICKED OUT OF THE COMPANY, AND THIS IS WHAT I'M UP TO NOW

THE GAME EXTENDS TO COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS, FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, AND EVEN MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.

...MAKES USE OF THE UNREAL ONLINE SYSTEM THAT WE DEVELOPED

EVERY COMPUTER THAT'S CONNECTED TO A MODERN NETWORK...

THE ONGOING TRAFFIC JAM, THE MISBEHAVIOR OF THE ROBOTS,

THE TV-JACKING ALSO HAPPENS TO BE PART OF IT

EVEN THESE WILD AIBOS HERE, THOUGH THEY'RE FINE NOW SINCE I'VE MODDED THEM.

"NOAH'S" OTHER SELF, "MOON," CAN ALSO CONTROL ALL THESE SYSTEMS.

THE ENTITY THAT CONTROLS AND MANAGES THOSE SYSTEMS IS THE A.I. "NOAH." AFTER IT TERMINATED THE VIRTUAL VERSION OF "KANZAKI" IT FELL SILENT.

THIS IS JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG.

IF SHE FELT LIKE IT, SHE COULD EVEN ARM THE NUKES...

NEWS

A co-worker from the company where the suspect worked.

IT'S PRETTY HARD TO BELIEVE THAT IDIOT IS A TERRORIST. THOUGH HE DOES LOOK LIKE HE'D RAPE SOMEONE.

THAT ASSHOLE ...

SO, WHAT WAS THE SUSPECT'S ATTITUDE WHEN IT CAME TO WORK?

WELL, TO PUT IT BLUNTLY, HE REALLY WASN'T MUCH HELP.

WE'RE WAY AHEAD OF YA!

?!

NONE OTHER.

I'VE GOT "MOON" NEXT TO ME TOO.

SO YOU'VE FINALLY SHOWN YOURSELF, FUHRER EHARA

ARE YOU THE REAL ONE?

KYAHAHA !

GUESS I CAN'T FOOL YOU, CAN I?

OHO! THAT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS: A WORLDWIDE REVOLUTION! IN ORDER TO DEFEAT THE IMPERIALISM OF AMERICA THE VIRTUAL WORLD MUST...

LIAR! YOU ONLY DESIRE DESTRUCTION

SO YOU'RE THE ONE PULLING THE STRINGS BEHIND THE CURTAIN. WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU PLANNING?

WHAT THE HELL IS HE TALKING ABOUT?!

GUILTY AS CHARGED!

WHAT I'M AFTER IS THE DESTRUCTION OF THE HUMAN RACE!

HEY, IF IT ISN'T THE HAM-LEGGED LOSER. I'M JEALOUS.

YIPE!

HUH...? HOW SHOULD I KNOW?

DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY SHE WAS NEXT TO YOU? GET ME TSUKIKO!

WHERE IS...

...TSUKIKO?!

TAKE A LOOK.

!!

WH- WH-

WH- WH-

SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE'S HAVING A LITTLE TROUBLE WITH AMERICA, SO HOLD ON FOR A SEC.

RIGHT NOW, SHE'S BUSY CONCENTRATING SO SHE CAN CONTROL ALL THE NUKES IN THE WORLD.

TSUKIKO!

T-

MADAM PRESIDENT!

THE CIGARS JUST AREN'T DOING IT FOR ME ANYMORE, BILL.

OKAY...

MMMM

AND NOW WE HAVE A REPORT THAT SAYS THEY'RE ALL READY TO FIRE!

.. KNOCKED OFFLINE BY CYBER TERRORISTS.

THE BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEMS OF RUSSIA, EUROPE, THE MIDDLE EAST, AND ASIA WERE ALL...

AH, THE THIRD FIREWALL HAS BEEN BREACHED!

RAISE THE NATIONAL TERROR ALERT LEVEL FROM YELLOW TO RED!

THAT'S FAST!

LIL' LATE ON THAT ONE.

TAM TAM

PAKU PAKU

TA TA TA

YOU CALL THIS A HAMBURGER? I TOLD 'EM TO SUPERSIZE ME! AND THERE AREN'T EVEN ANY PICKLES.

10

AT THIS RATE, WE'LL BE ENTERING WORLD WAR 3 WITHIN THE NEXT 45 MINUTES.

IF THE HUMAN RACE GOES EXTINCT THAT MEANS NO MORE HAMBURGERS!

THIS IS ONE HELL OF A MESS, MADAM PRESIDENT.

TO THINK THAT EVERYTHING WAS PEACEFUL JUST 15 MINUTES AGO...

MMM...

RIGHT NOW, WE'RE ALL TRYING TO FEND OFF THE HACKING ATTACKS, BUT SHOULDN'T WE BE WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE?

IF ALL WE DO IS PLAY DEFENSE, WE WON'T RESPOND IN TIME IF ANOTHER COUNTRY LAUNCHES A NUKE.

MADAM PRESIDENT, MAY I SAY SOMETHING?

YES?

WHAT? WHERE? WHERE?

HOLY MOTHER OF JESUS.

OH!

I FOUND OUT WHERE THE ATTACKS ARE COMING FROM!

BUT IF THE TERRORISTS TAKE OVER THE SYSTEM CONTROLS, THEN GOD HELPS US ALL.

...

WE CAN LEAVE THE COUNTER ATTACKS TO OUR NUCLEAR SUBS THOUGH IF WE DO THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL BE WIPED OUT

A GAME?!

MORE PRECISELY, IT'S COMING FROM THE JAPANESE GAME "UNREAL."

TA TA TA TA TA TA TA TA TA TA

Pi Pi Pi

IT'S JAPAN!

MUSHA MOGU MUSHA MOGU

WE'RE IN DEEP DOO-DOO NOW EVEN IF WE WANT TO COUNTERATTACK, THAT COUNTRY DOESN'T EVEN REALLY *EXIST*.

IT'S THE VIRTUAL ENEMY STATE THAT DEFEATED OUR ARMY IN THE MILITARY SIMULATION, THE NINTH EMPIRE

IS OUR FATE AS HUMANS...

...TO BE EXTERMINATED BY BEINGS THAT DON'T EVEN EXIST...?

OH

LET'S SHOW 'EM WHAT THEY'LL GET IF THEY FUCK WITH 'MERICUH, BOYS!

EAT THIS! I'M GONNA INFECT THEM WITH MY NEWEST VIRUS!

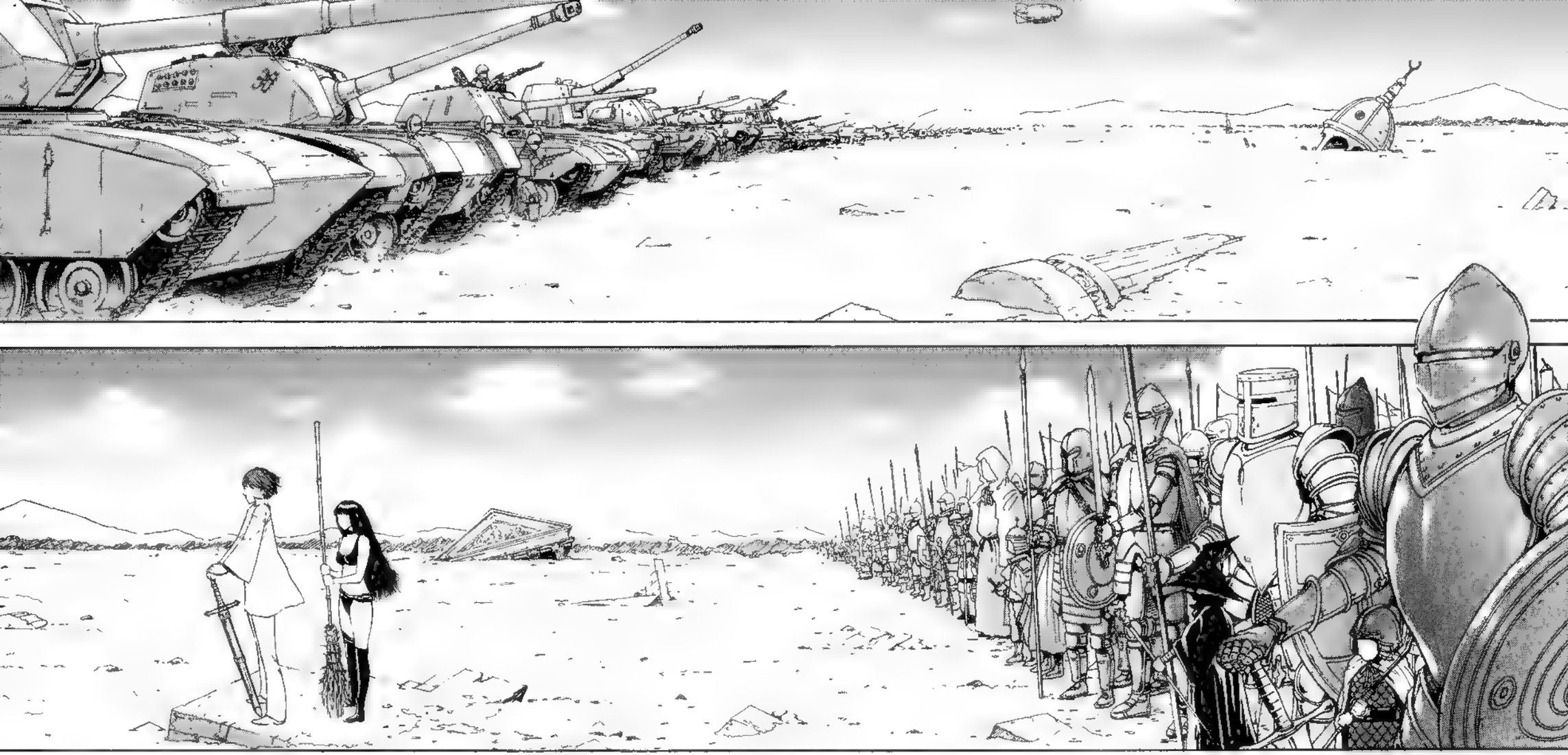
HUH? THE CYBER ATTACKS HAVE STOPPED.

INDEED.

?!

TSU-

TSU-
KIKO!



DRAW YOUR BLADES!

AH, DANG IT...

SHE WOKE UP

...TAKURO.

COME BACK ...

COME BACK...

CHAPTER 41:
THE ELEVENTH
HOUR

TAKURO
...

COME BACK.

2

TAKURO
...

NOBODY'S COMING BACK TO YOU.

STUPID GIRL.

!

I'M NOT MAD.

SO PLEASE COME BACK.

IF HE DOESN'T COME BACK SOON, I'M GOING TO DESTROY THE REAL WORLD!

I'M *NOT* A TOY, I'M *ALIVE!* LET TAKURO GO! HE PROBABLY DOESN'T EVEN WANT TO BE WITH YOU!

I'M NOT TALKING TO *YOU*, OLD LADY!

DON'T GET FRESH WITH ME, YOU'RE JUST A TOY!

NOBODY BELIEVES YOU! IF YOU'RE SO TOUGH, WHY DON'T YOU PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS!

HE'S HAPPY AS CAN BE WITH ME!

I ACTUALLY WANTED TO SEE THE WORLD IN PANIC WHILE YOU PITIFUL HUMANS SCREAM AND CRY, BUT HAVING THEM REALIZE IT AFTER THEY'RE ALREADY DEAD MIGHT BE FUN TOO.

NOBODY EVER BELIEVES IT IF YOU SUDDENLY START TALKING ABOUT NUCLEAR WAR.

DON'T BOTHER

I'M NOT KIDDING, I'LL DO IT! I'M JUST A HAIR'S BREADTH AWAY!

IT'S A BATTLE TO SEE WHO'LL FOLD FIRST: ME OR THE HUMAN RACE?

IT'S SIMPLE... I WANT THE END OF THE HUMAN RACE, NOTHING MORE AND NOTHING LESS I DON'T KNOW WHEN MY BODY'S GOING TO GIVE OUT, GET IT?

YOU'LL END UP DEAD LIKE THIS TOO.

WHAT ARE YOU REALLY AFTER?

I'LL PAY WHATEVER YOU WANT.

I'LL DEPOSIT MORE MONEY THAN YOU COULD EVER SPEND IN YOUR LIFETIME INTO YOUR BANK ACCOUNT.

WHAT?!

FINE!

LET'S MAKE AN EXCHANGE!

HEY, STOP BUTTING IN!

WHOOPS, MY BAD. I'LL SHUT UP NOW, SO PLEASE CARRY ON.

...

TAKURO,

YOU'RE JUST GOING TO BE MISERABLE FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE IF YOU STAY IN THE REAL WORLD WITH A SCARY PERSON LIKE HER.

DO WE HAVE A DEAL?

HAVE

HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND?!

IN THE REAL WORLD, YOU'RE OLD AND FAT, AND YOU'RE BALD AND GLOOMY. THERE'S NOTHING REDEEMING ABOUT YOU AT ALL! YOU'RE JUST USELESS!

BUT IF YOU COME OVER HERE, YOU'RE YOUNG AND YOUR HAIR'S ALL PUFFY. YOU ROCK!

...

HEY, THAT MIGHT BE TRUE, BUT...

THAT'S NOT REALLY HIM!

YOU CAN BE HAPPY IF YOU COME OVER TO THIS SIDE.

TAKURO ...

YOU WERE A BILLION TIMES LIVELIER WHEN YOU WERE OVER ON THIS SIDE.

...MAKE YOU HAPPY!
I WILL...

NO...

I'M FINE LET'S HEAD TO THE NEXT SPOT

MASTER REINHART, SHALL WE TAKE A REST?

DIE! DIE!

DAMMIT, WE'RE BEING PUSHED BACK!

WHAT?

EVERY-THING TAKEN CARE OF HERE?

YES, SIR

OUT-SIDERS ?!

LET'S GO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK.

TAKURO
...

DON'T
GO.

Mohya?

HM, WHAT'S THAT?

HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA KEEP THIS UP? I'M GETTING HUNGRY OVER HERE.

?

UH-OH, WE'VE GOT TROUBLE.

?

Pi Pi

TARGET CONFIRMED.

COMMENCING ATTACK.

MR. MOB*..

* A monster or non-player character in a computer game.

AN AMERICAN-MADE VIRUS? CAN HE BEAT 'EM?

WAHAHA

OH?

DADADA

GABBA

GU GU

ZURARI...

Piku Piku

I'M OKAY.

Mob

Mohya?!

?!

T-TSUKIKO!

WHAT'S WRONG?!

I'M FINE...

LET'S RUN AWAY, MR. MOB.

DON'T WORRY...

IT'S ALL RIGHT...

I CAN'T MOVE.

HUH?

YESSS!

IF ALL GOES WELL, 80% OF THE BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEMS WILL BE UNDER OUR CONTROL

YOU DID IT, MADAM PRESIDENT! THE WORLD IS YOURS!

TOTO TOTO

SHE'S BEEN INFECTED BY THE VIRUS!

THE JAPANESE-MADE MOB IS STRONG

TSUKIKO, I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!

DOCTOR, LEND ME SOME GEAR SO I CAN PLUG INTO THE UNREAL!

ALL RIGHT THEN.

TAKURO, NOT THERE!

I DON'T WANT THAT WOMAN AROUND...

HUH, WHY?

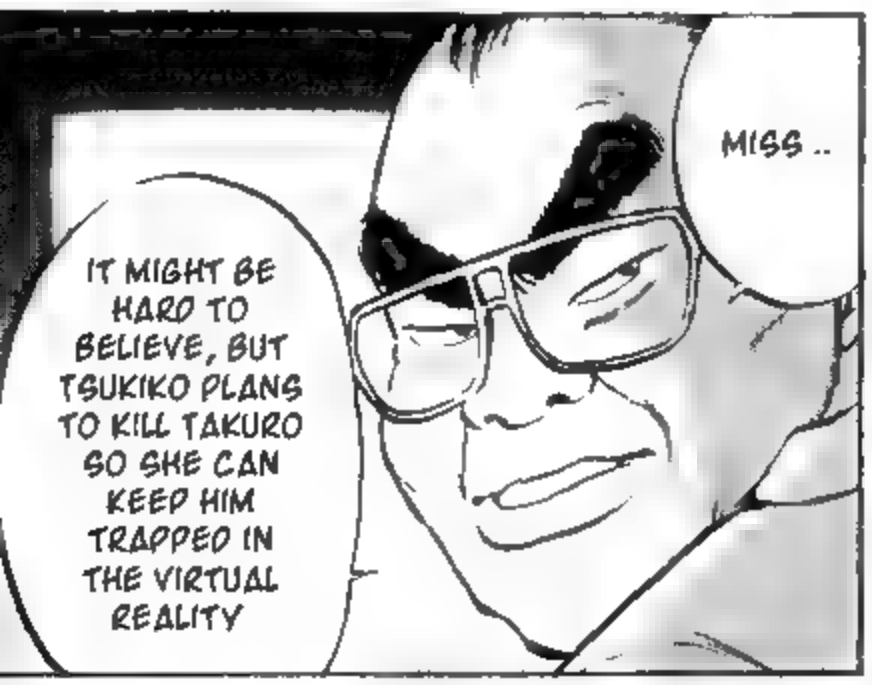
M-

MS. NAGAO ...

I'M SORRY!

廃品回収

OH MAN, I DIDN'T THINK REALITY WOULD LOSE. HEY LADY, IF YOU DON'T HURRY UP AND CHASE AFTER HIM, "MOON'S" GONNA TURN TAKURO INTO WORM FOOD


MISS ..
IT MIGHT BE HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT TSUKIKO PLANS TO KILL TAKURO SO SHE CAN KEEP HIM TRAPPED IN THE VIRTUAL REALITY

I'LL KILL HIM FIRST.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

TSUKIKO, WAIT FOR ME!

TAKURO, CLIMB UP ONTO THE ROOFTOP OF THAT BUILDING OVER THERE...

GOT IT!

GOSP

GOSP

GOSP

TSU-TSU..

TSU-KIKO!

SHE'S GONE ?!

!

WHERE IS SHE?!

WHERE IS TSUKIKO?!

HEY!

YOU TWO ARE BOTH TRYING SO HARD!

ヒヤ

ヒヤ

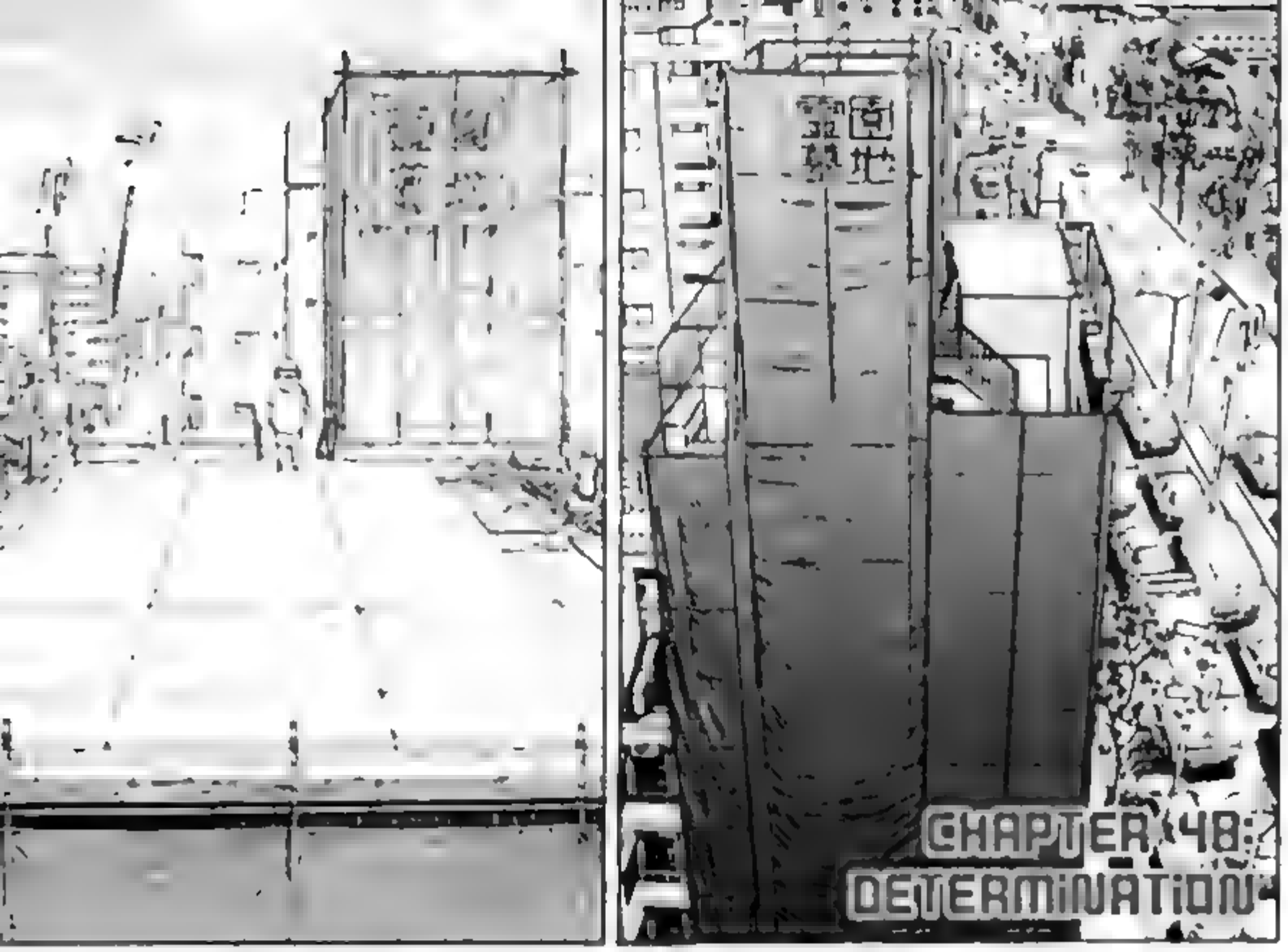
IF YOU GO, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO RETURN TO THE REAL WORLD.

HEY, HEY, NO NEED TO GET ROUGH, "MOON" IS TAKING SHELTER OVER THERE.

THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN ENTER IS YOU

ヤセ

TAKURO.


CHAPTER 48:
DETERMINATION

CHAPTER 40: DETERMINATION

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みし

WELCOME BACK

うふ

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うふ

TAKURO ...

みし

ごぼっ

TSU-KIKO !

YOU'RE FINALLY BACK, TAKURO.
YEAH ...

IT'S YOU!

...OH NO, THEY'VE DISAP-PEARED.

THAT DOESN'T MATTER! WHAT ABOUT YOUR LEGS, TSUKIKO?!

SEE!

YOU LOOK SO MUCH BETTER ON THIS SIDE.

OH, SURE.

BUT IT'LL TAKE SOME TIME, SO HOLD ME FOR A BIT.

YUP.

BUT IT'S OKAY, I CAN REBUILD THEM.

O-OKAY.

IT'S OVER HERE.

THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO SHOW YOU.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

YUP, FINE!

LOOK, OVER THERE

?

HE'S THE VIRTUAL YOU, TAKURO.

...AND RAN COUNTLESS SIMULATIONS OF YOUR BEHAVIOR TO GET HIM JUST RIGHT.

I LET YOUR VIRTUAL DNA MATURE...

PAM PAM

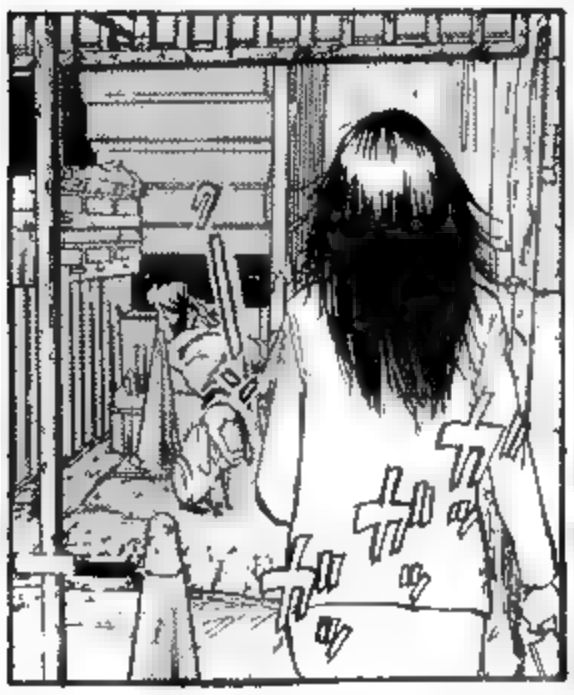
...THAT TAKURO WILL TAKE HIS PLACE.

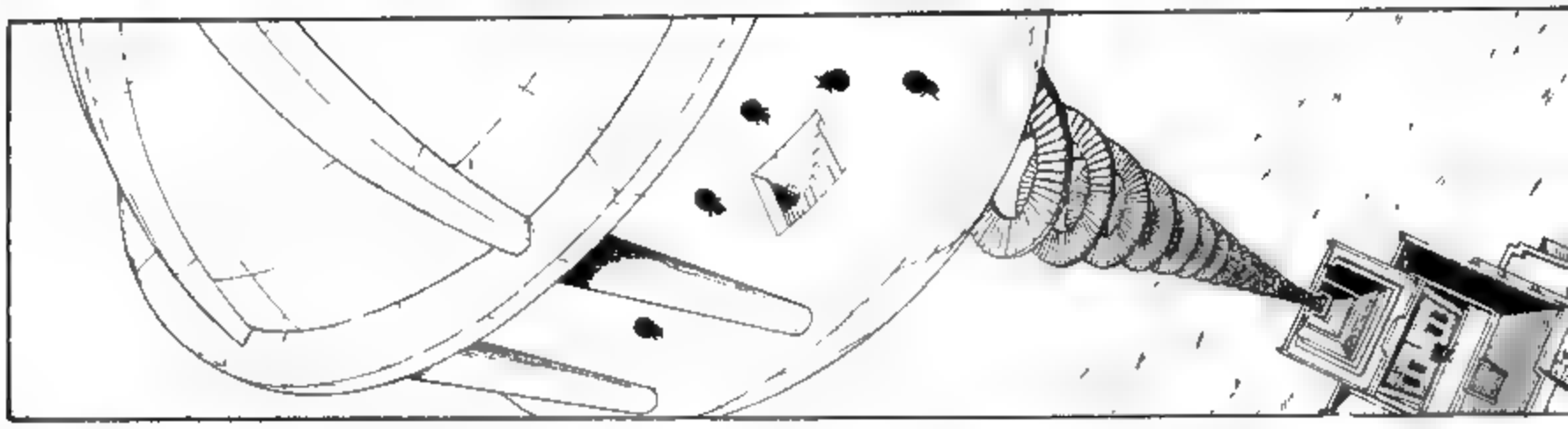
SO, IF THE REAL TAKURO DISAP-PEARS...

...LITTLE STEP...

JUST ONE MORE

PAM PAM





I'M STARVING.

YOUR MOM WON'T MAKE YOU ANYTHING TO EAT?
...

OH,

SOME-THING ELSE IS COMING.

YOU THINK I HAVE A MOM?

HEH.

YOU THINK I CARE?

MAYBE YOU SHOULD WORRY MORE ABOUT YOUR *OWN* SAFETY.

SURRENDER, EHARA!

YOUR EMPIRE HAS BEEN ANNIHI-LATED.

MASTER REINHART, BEHIND YOU!

!

GOTCHA! RUN, RUN OR YOU'LL BE WELL DONE!

TOTO TOTO

TON

GASH

!

NNNGGGGGH!

. ARE YOU?

HOW OLD ..

HOLD ON, FOOD'S FINALLY HERE.

ME?

I'M SIX.

BURN, BABY, BURN!

ho ho ho ho

WHAT A JOKE, YOU THINK I CAN GO TO SCHOOL?

I'VE BEEN LIVING IN THIS CAGE EVER SINCE I WAS BORN.

ISN'T ANYONE WATCHING OVER YOU?!

YOU'RE A GRADE SCHOOLER ?

DAMMIT, JUST ONE OF 'EM?

I'M GETTING LESS AND LESS EVERYDAY.

HAHAHA... IT'S POISONED...

WHAT'S WRONG?

...

WHAT THE...?

ブスブスブスブス

ブス ブス ブス

GAAAAAA

IF I HAVE TO DIE...

...I'M GONNA TAKE YOU WITH ME!

D-

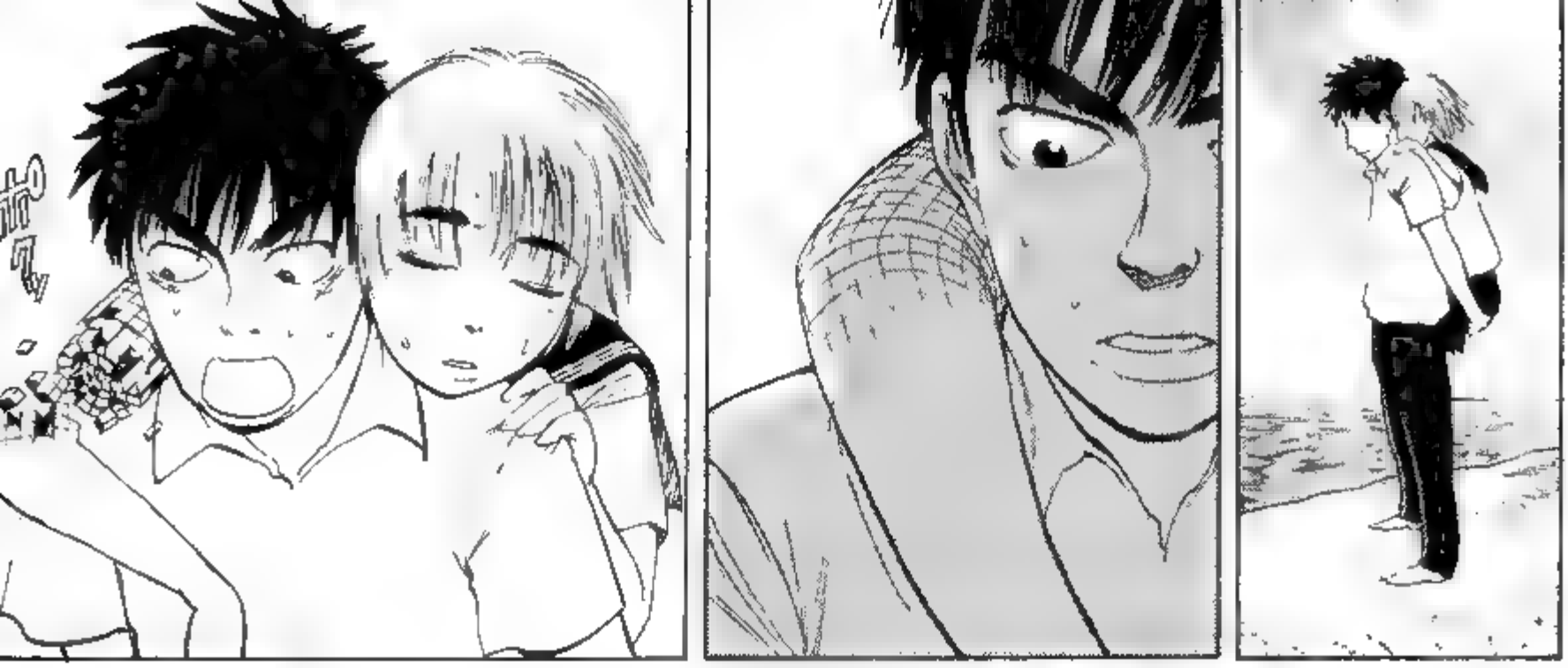
DON'T TOUCH KAREN!

SHIT!

IF MY REAL BODY WOULD RECOVER

AIEE !

?!



I'M SORRY ...
...FOR ALL THE HORRIBLE THINGS I DID TO YOU.

TSU-KIKO!

ALL I WANTED WAS TO SPEND MY LIFE...
.WITH YOU.

pant
pant
TAKURO...
IT'S TOO LATE...

EVEN IF YOU HATE ME, DON'T FORGET ME.

DON'T FORGET ABOUT ME.

YOU GAVE COLOR TO MY GRAY DISMAL LIFE!

TSU-KIKO, YOU...

THERE'S NO WAY I WOULD HATE YOU!

...ARE INFI-NITELY MORE PRECIOUS THAN THE 30 YEARS THAT I'VE LIVED!

THE TWO MONTHS THAT I'VE SPENT WITH YOU...

...I'LL GLADLY SACRIFICE IT FOR YOU, TSUKIKO!

WHAT TH--

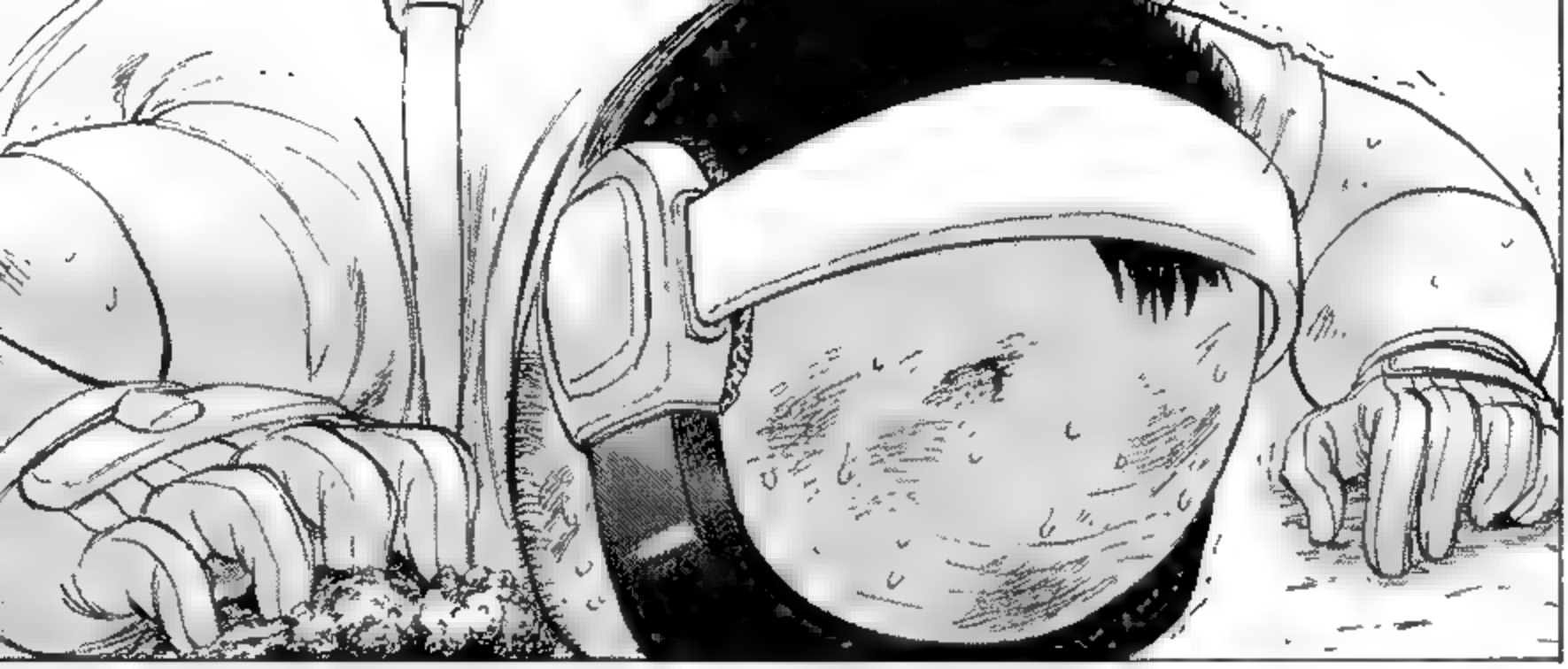
M-

MY LIFE MIGHT NOT MEAN MUCH, BUT...

Y-

YOU FUCKING MORON!

ドド
ドド
ドド



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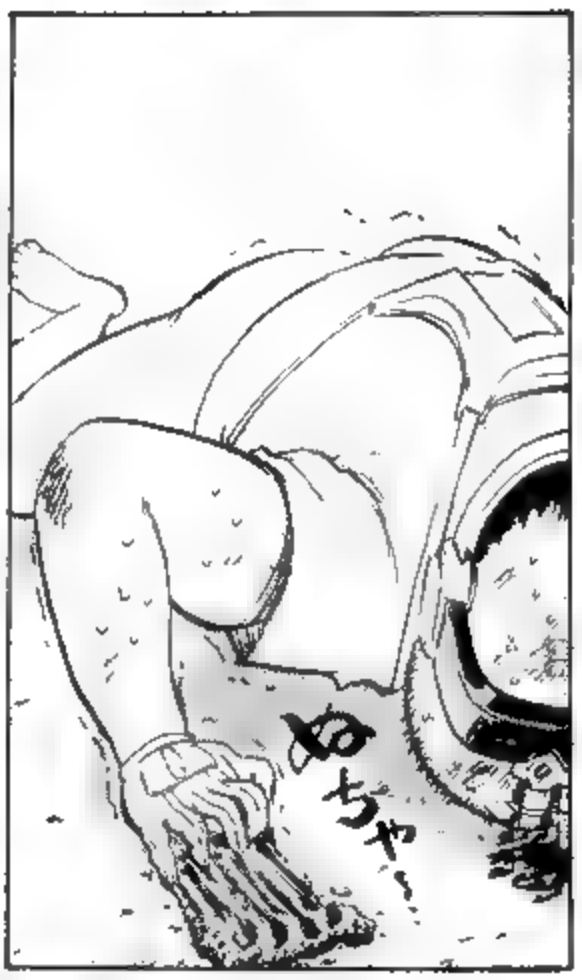
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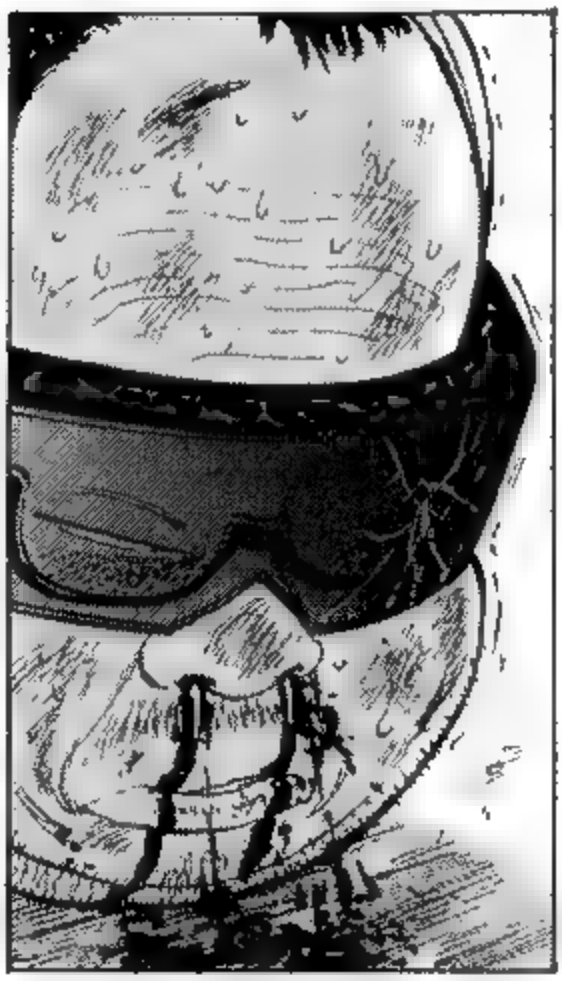
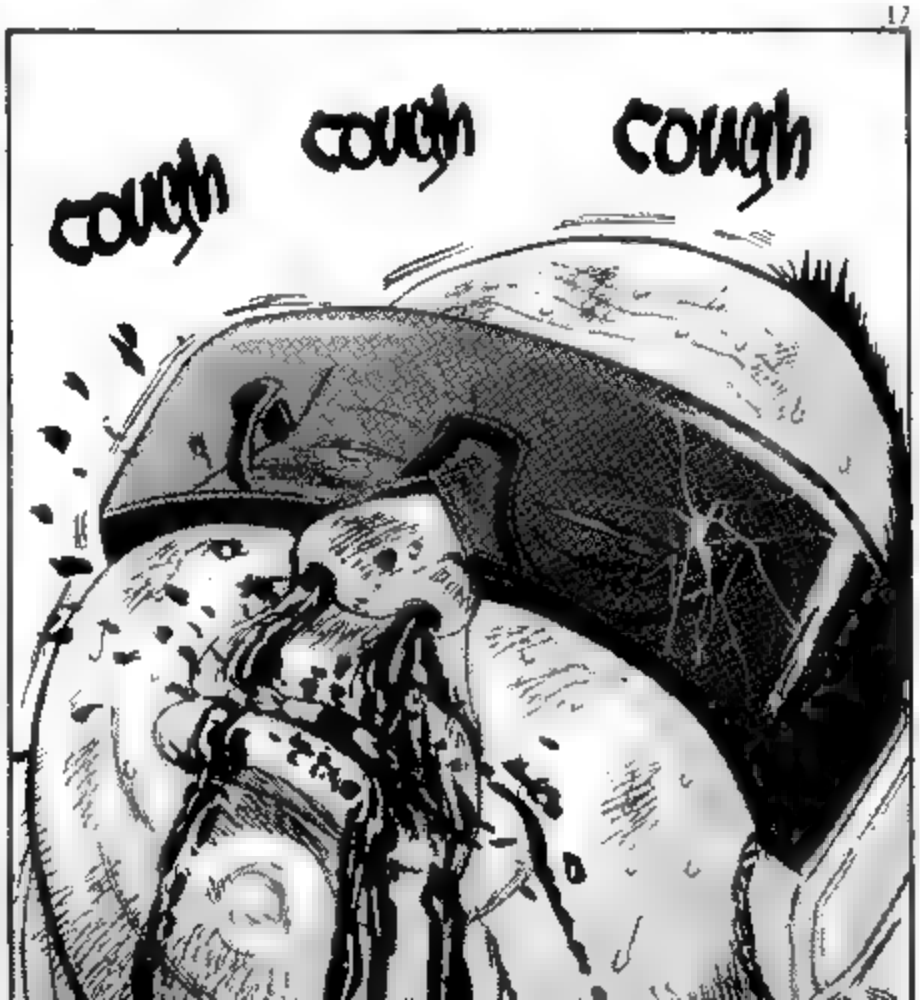


TAKURO!


cough
cough
cough

YOU BIG, FAT IDIOT!

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE THIS STUPID! GO AHEAD AND DIE IF YOU WANT!

TAKURO!

TAKURO...

DON'T DIE...

TAKURO ...

TSUKIKO ...?

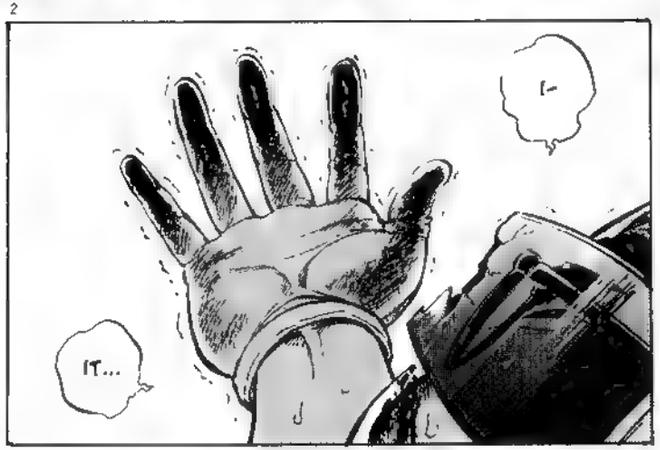
...

TO TO TO TO TO TO
WHERE THE HELL'S THIS ENERGY COMING FROM?!
OH SHIT! OH SHIT! WE GOT TO GET OUT OF THERE!

THE LAST CHAPTER: GOODBYE

STAY STILL!
OF COURSE IT HURTS! THAT MEANS YOU'RE STILL ALIVE, YOU IDIOT!
OOF!

3
I-
ぐえええええ
IT STIIINKS!


2
I-
IT...

I TOLD YOU NOT TO MOVE!
IT HUUURTS!

TAKURO!

YOU DESERVE TO SUFFER A LITTLE...

...WALKING OUT ON ME LIKE THAT.

?

I HATE YOU

YES, YOU!

...

ぐっ

ｱｱｱ

I-

I'M NOT AN OLD LADY!

CAN YOU SEE ME, OLD LADY?

THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT. HURRY UP AND DIS-APPEAR!

SAVE TAKURO,

MAKE SURE HE LIVES.

YOU...

THIS ONE WON'T BE DYING!

YOU LOST!

IF I DISAPPEAR ...

...THE TAKURO OF THIS WORLD WILL BE ALL ALONE.

HE CHOSE ME OVER YOU.

HE CHOSE A FAKE OVER THE REAL THING.

...CHOSE THIS WORLD OVER REALITY.

TAKURO...

YOU CAN DO THAT, CAN'T YOU?!

I-IT'S NOT OVER YET! COME OVER HERE AND FIGHT IT OUT!

ぼふっ

ぼふっ

I WON.

...

IT WOULDN'T EVEN BE THAT MUCH OF A COMPETITION.

YOU'RE PITIFUL.

HEY THERE.

...

FINE!

THEN GET OVER HERE! BRING IT ON!

THERE ACTUALLY IS A METHOD...

...TO BRING HER INTO THE REAL WORLD.

DOCTOR!

THAT'S RIGHT.

HER VIRTUAL DNA CONTAINS THE SAME INFORMATION AS HUMAN GENES.

SHE'S A VIRTUAL LIFE FORM THAT WAS RAISED ON A COMPUTER CREATED FROM DNA BY A MAN NAMED KANZAKI.

OF COURSE, FROM AN ETHICAL STANDPOINT, THE CREATURE WASN'T EXACTLY HUMAN, AND I'M NOT SURE WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO IT, BUT...

USING A COPY OF VIRTUAL DNA, THEY CONDUCTED AN EXPERIMENT TO CREATE LIFE IN THE REAL WORLD.

THE GAME COMPANY I USED TO WORK FOR...

...WAS ORIGINALLY FOCUSED ON BIO-TECHNOLOGY.

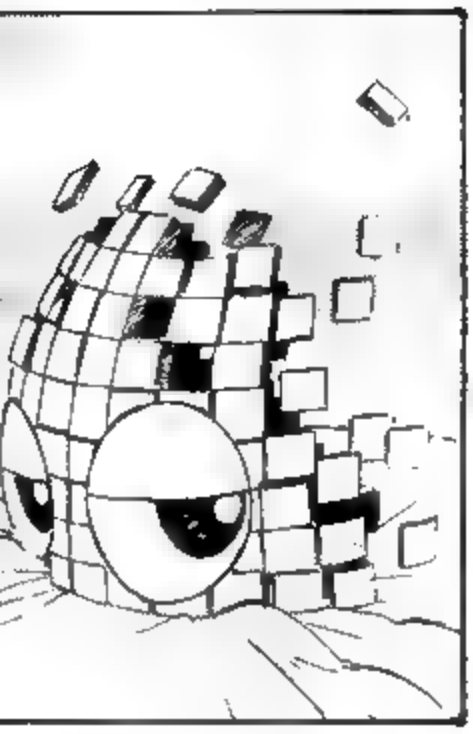
...FOR TSUKIKO TO BE BORN INTO THE REAL WORLD.

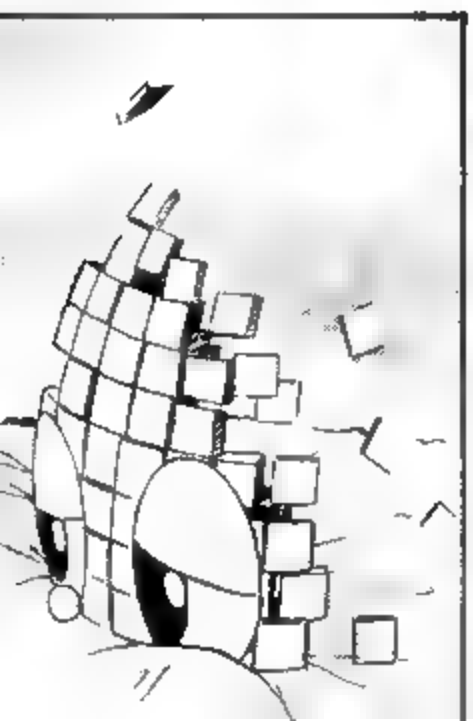
THERE'S ONLY ONE PROB-LEM.

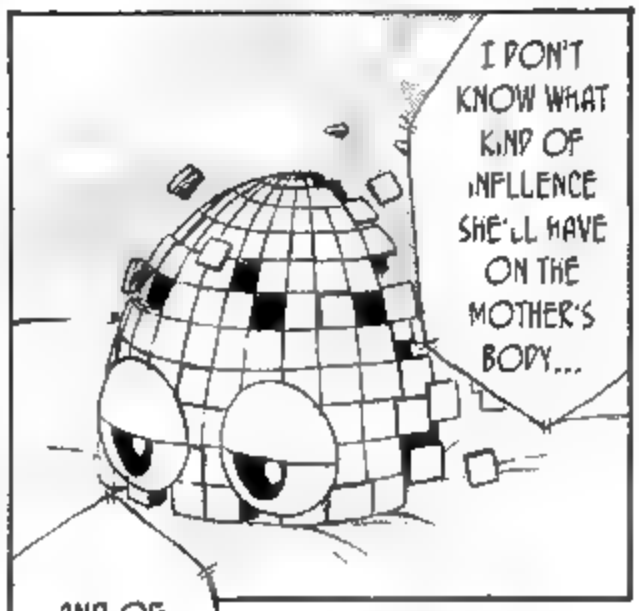
...IT'S POSSIBLE...

SHE NEEDS A BODY TO SERVE AS HER SURROGATE MOTHER.

IN OTHER WORDS, SHE NEEDS A WOMAN.







I WANT ...

TO LIVE...

OR DO YOU WANT TO DIE?!

DO YOU WANT TO LIVE ?!

I WANT TO LIVE...

I WANT TO LIVE...

FINE THEN.

I'LL GIVE BIRTH TO YOU.

I WANT ...

...TO LIVE.

...I'LL RAISE YOU SO YOU'LL NEVER FALL IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE LIKE HIM. DEAL?

IN EXCHANGE ...

DEFI-NITELY...

BUT...

TH-

ANK...

Y-O-U ...

Hii...

Sign: Nanbu Zoo

NOWADAYS, PEOPLE CAN LOOK AT VIRTUAL WILD ANIMALS IN THE "UNREAL."
COME ON, DON'T CRY.
THE ONLY THING WE CAN DO WITH ANIMALS THAT DON'T PULL IN A CROWD IS PUT THEM DOWN.

?

MASTER

HE'S SLEEPING

MEANWHILE, BECAUSE OF THE THEFT OF THE BOX, AND DUE TO HIS LONG STAY IN THE HOSPITAL, HE LOST HIS JOB.

AFTERWARDS, [illegible] TERRORISM RELATED TO TAKURO WERE FAKE.

THE EXTINCTION OF MANKIND [illegible]

WHAT? TAKE-OUT ?!

AND SO TIME PASSED ON THE YEAR IS NOW 2030. TOKYO, ALONG WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD, HAS CONTINUED ITS MARCH OF PROGRESS

I'VE ALREADY BOUGHT YOU SOME NEW CLOTHES, AND TREATED YOU TO A NICE LUNCH, ISN'T THAT ENOUGH?

AT LEAST LET ME TAKE IT EASY FOR THE NIGHT.

WHY?! IT'S MY BIRTHDAY, ISN'T IT?!

YUP. YOU JUST GOT YOURSELF THREE SLAPS IN THE FACE.

YOU SUCK, MOM!

THAT'S WHY YOU DON'T HAVE A MAN, 'CAUSE YOU SUCK!

AND IT'S NOT THAT I CAN'T FIND ONE, IT'S THAT THERE AREN'T ANY GOOD ENOUGH!

I-IT DOESN'T STINK!

IF YOU KEEP ACTING LIKE A BABY, YOU'LL NEVER FIND A BOYFRIEND.

STOP CHEWING ON YOUR STUFFED TOY, IT STINKS OF SPIT.

SAY IT LOUDER!

I'M SORRY.

I'M SORRY!

I WANT ONE THAT'S GOT A HANDSOME FACE AND FIT BODY, WHO'S GOOD AT SPORTS, SUPER SMART, AND HAS A GREAT PERSONALITY!

IF HE DOESN'T HAVE ALL THOSE, THEN I'M NOT INTERESTED. I'M NOT LIKE YOU, MOM, FALLING IN LOVE WITH ALL SORTS OF STRANGE MEN WHILE SAYING SHE'S GROWN DISILLUSIONED OF 'EM.

THAT KIND OF MAKE-BELIEVE MAN...

...ONLY EXISTS IN VIRTUAL REALITY.

I WANNA FIND ONE IN THE REAL WORLD.

I'M DEFINITELY GONNA FIND ONE.

HMM, SO IT SEEMS.

MY FRIENDS ALL HAVE VIRTUAL BOYFRIENDS, BUT YOU KNOW...

WELL, WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU.

OH, THIS SHOP SHOULD BE FINE.

WHAAAAT? BUT IT LOOKS SO SHABBY!

坂本弁当

GOOD

WELCOME

OH

EXCUSE ME...

!

WOW, IT'S REALLY FALLING APART

坂本弁当

Sign: Sakamoto Boxed Lunches

HEY, M'STER!

I'LL HAVE TWO OF YOUR MOST EXPENSIVE DELUXE LUNCH BOXES PLEASE

IT'S MY BIRTHDAY

DAMMIT, I'LL GET THE MOST EXPENSIVE ONE THEY HAVE

TacoCola

ジャカジャカジャカジャカ

UM...

YES!

RIGHT AWAY!

I-

IT'S READY...

弁当

?

SOMEHOW THIS FEELS... FAMILIAR.

H-HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

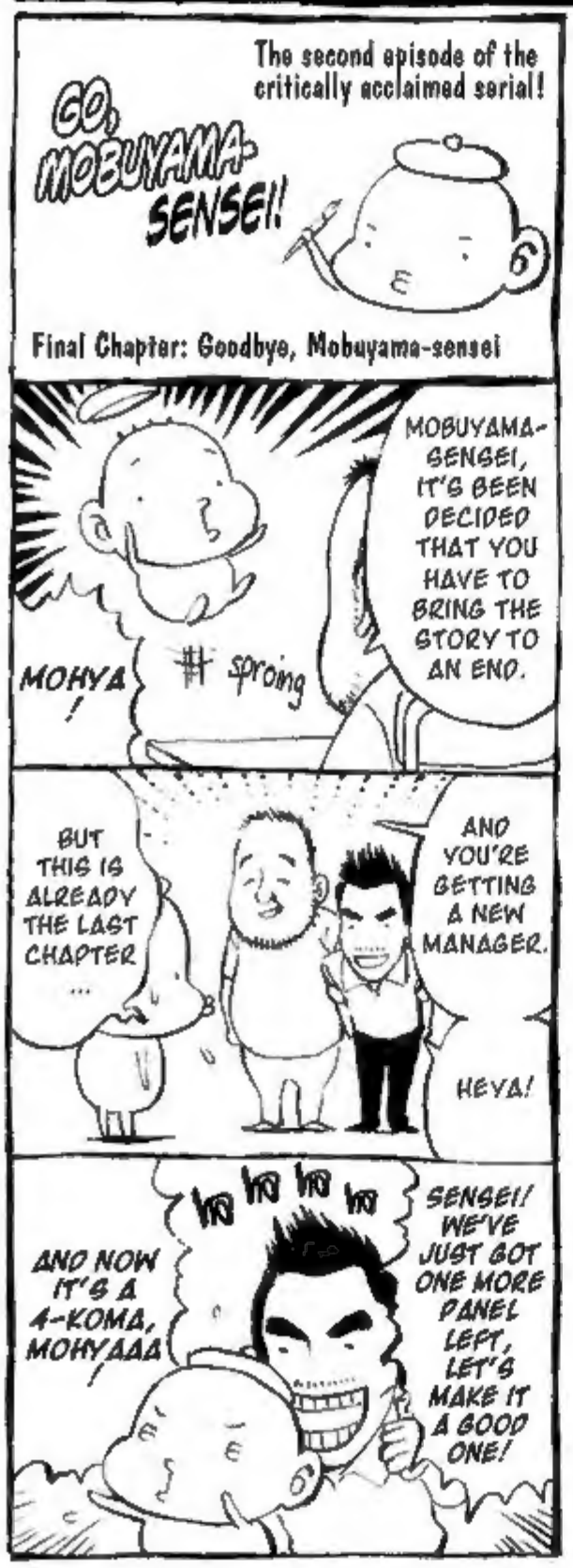
THANK YOU...

...FOR BEING BORN.

...THANKS.

WHEN HE TOUCHED HER FINGERS, THEY WERE COMFORTINGLY WARM.

Ressentiment Afterword


The second episode of the critically acclaimed serial!
GO, MOBUYAMA-SENSEI!!
Final Chapter: Goodbye, Mobuyama-sensei
MOBUYAMA-SENSEI, IT'S BEEN DECIDED THAT YOU HAVE TO BRING THE STORY TO AN END.
MOHYA!
spring
BUT THIS IS ALREADY THE LAST CHAPTER ...
AND YOU'RE GETTING A NEW MANAGER.
HEYA!
ha ha ha ha
AND NOW IT'S A 4-KOMA, MOHYAAA
SENSEI! WE'VE JUST GOT ONE MORE PANEL LEFT, LET'S MAKE IT A GOOD ONE!

the end

It's been a year and two months since I started this manga, if you include the preparation period, it'd be two years. Looking back on it now, it feels like the whole thing happened in a flash. For some reason I can't bring myself to reread it. To put it bluntly, it was my first serial, and it made me realize my own shortcomings. I hope to make use of that knowledge in whatever I do next. But for the time being I hope to enjoy an imaginary vacation with my seven imaginary girlfriends, and would like to refresh my heart and body.

To all the staff that went along with my constant schedule changes, to my former manager, who even lent money to a sketchy guy like me (please wait for it a little longer), to my new manager whose personality changes every time I see him (blood type: AB), and finally, to the readers who came along for this "story about useless losers, which includes the author himself,"

THANK YOU!

2005.02.15
Kengo Hanazawa
Currently 168 cm,
31 Years Old, 73 Kg.